

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Madison, Wisconsin

ITEM RECOMMENDED FOR NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA

TO THE SECRETARY: Anthony S. Earl

Date Dec. 5, 1978

FROM: M. E. Reinke

SUBJECT: MASTER PLANNING - Approval of final master plan for the Coulee State Forest, La Crosse County.

1. To be presented at December Board meeting by Milt Reinke.

2. Appearances requested by the public:

Name

Representing whom?

3. Reference materials to be used:

Master Plan

4. Summary:

Approval of the Coulee State Forest master plan is requested. A public informational meeting was held and the plan has been circulated for review to various individuals, groups and bureaus. The E.I.A. was approved 12-8-77.

5. Recommendation: That the Board approve the proposed master plan which will provide the direction for management and development of this state forest property.

APPROVED:

Chris Besadny 12-5-78
Besadny, Administrator Date

Deputy
Damon, Deputy Secretary Date

Anthony S. Earl 12/7/78
Secretary A. S. Earl Date

Signed:

M. E. Reinke

M. E. Reinke, Director
Bureau of Forestry

cc: J. Scullion - 14

M. E. Reinke - 8

G. Vande Hei - 8

→ A. Kubiske - 8

J. Lissack - Eau Claire

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: December 5, 1978
To: Anthony S. Earl - 14

File Ref:

From: M. E. Reinke



Subject: Approval of the Coulee State Forest Master Plan

We are pleased to report that the Coulee State Forest Master Plan has been completed and awaits final approval by the Natural Resources Board.

A public informational meeting was conducted in LaCrosse County at West Salem, Wisconsin in January 1978 and written comments and suggestions were accepted following this meeting. Copies of the proposed plan were also mailed to concerned individuals, groups and advisory councils for their comments and suggestions. Changes were subsequently made in the plan following these inputs.

On October 31, 1978, copies of the revised plan were again sent to the concerned advisory councils and Department Bureaus for further review and comments with appropriate changes made in the plan.

In summary, the master plan provides for:

- A. Six land use classifications:
Scenic areas, demonstration and/or experimental areas, forest production areas, mineral extraction area, equipment storage site and a natural area.
- B. Development:
Forestry activities include an annual harvest of 25 acres of sawtimber; cultural treatment of 30 acres per year; an average annual tree planting schedule of 7 acres and .5 acres of game shrubs per year.

Recreational development is designed to accommodate only non-motorized, extensive activities. These include hunting, hiking, skiing and horseback riding.

Roads to the interior of the property have been gated to exclude vehicular travel. A parking lot has been constructed on the eastern side of the property and one is planned for the west side.

An important element governing the management of this property is the lease with the U.S. Forest Service for forestry and watershed research. This had to receive consideration in development of the master plan.

The Environmental Assessment Screening Worksheet has been approved by the Bureau of Environmental Impact. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required because proposed management activities are minimal and will not significantly affect quality of the human environment.

Anthony S. Earl - December 5, 1978

2.

We are confident that to the extent possible this plan accommodates all interests expressed by the various groups, organizations and councils that assisted in the development of the plan.

Approval of the Board is requested.

cc: J. Scullion - 14
M. E. Reinke - 8
G. Vande Hei - 8
A. Kubiske - 8
J. Lissack - Eau Claire

Department of Natural Resources
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

COULEE STATE FOREST
MASTER PLAN

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Department of Natural Resources
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

COULEE STATE FOREST
MASTER PLAN PROPOSAL

A. BACKGROUND

History of the Coulee Experimental Forest

The Coulee Experimental Forest is a unique entity in Wisconsin. Most state forests are primarily used for the growing of recurring forest crops along with other multiple use benefits and were acquired through grants, acts of Congress and through normal acquisition. The CEF was purchased by the state to provide land for long-term research studies to be conducted by the U.S. Forest Service. The nature of the studies was to investigate forest watershed problems and develop forest and land management practices designed to reduce water problems and improve forest yields.

The unglaciated portions of southwestern Wisconsin, southeastern Minnesota and northeast Iowa, the "Driftless Area", have long had numerous land and water resource management problems. Federal government agencies have accomplished much on the agricultural lands. However, the forest and nonagricultural lands had been largely ignored. Recognizing the need for research information in order to properly treat these lands, the Wisconsin Forestry Advisory Committee in 1956 recommended a research center for the area. The Wisconsin Conservation Commission sought out the U.S. Forest Service Research organization, resulting in a memorandum of understanding between the two agencies. The Commission would buy and administer the land and the Forest Service would conduct the research. The original acreage goal was about 3,000 acres.

Some 60 sites were examined by Lake States Forest Experiment Station personnel seeking an area representative of the 7.5 million acres of Driftless Area. By 1958, a suitable tract of land had been selected in LaCrosse County which had the "mix" of aspects, slope, land use and forested acreage desired. The LaCrosse field unit of the Lake States Experiment Station was established that year. Research operations were conducted under the original lease until 1972 when a new 15-year lease was negotiated. The LaCrosse field unit office was closed by the U.S. Forest Service on December 31, 1975. One experiment is being continued through U.S. Forest Service-Department of Natural Resources cooperation.

Land acquisition began in 1958 under the direction of the Black River State Forest manager, Black River Falls. A formal dedication of the forest was held in June, 1960. Land purchases continued through 1964. Administration of the lands was vested in the Black River State Forest manager until 1970 when this responsibility was transferred to the area forester, LaCrosse. Acreage of the forest now totals 2,971.7.

Current Management Activities

Land use and management is governed by the original purpose of acquisition, namely forest and watershed management research. A secondary objective is management of the property as a state forest. Certain areas have been designated to receive specific treatment designed to maintain the characteristics necessary to meet research objectives. Examples are continued grazing of small pasture areas and maintaining of open land in that condition. Compatibility of management to research needs has been paramount.

Activities include timber sales, tree planting, hay harvesting for open land maintenance, annual wildlife habitat-access road mowings, property administration and maintenance, and some research on hardwood diseases being conducted by the U.S. Forest Service researchers of the North Central Forest Experiment Station.

Use of the property by the general public is for hunting, scenic driving, hiking, cross-country skiing, berry picking and horseback riding.

B. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

1. Goal

To maintain a land area for experimental work in forest and watershed management and for growing recurring forest crops while providing for watershed stabilization, extensive forms of outdoor recreation, wildlife and scenic values.

2. Objectives

1. To provide areas necessary to the conduction of forest and watershed management research by the Department of Natural Resources and by the U.S. Forest Service as set forth in the current lease agreement (see Appendix A). Research use by other state and federal agencies for similar purposes would be allowable, provided there is no conflict with other facets of this master plan.
2. To harvest an average of 25 acres of mature timber annually (.008% of forest area), while providing for stand regeneration and maintaining watershed stabilization. Merchantable timber damaged or destroyed by insects, disease, fire or weather conditions will be salvaged. During harvest or salvage operations and in other silvicultural work, all research findings will be utilized to meet this stabilization objective.
3. To continue and maintain extensive day-use recreational activities compatible with the main goal of the property and accommodating approximately 4,000 man-days of such activities per year. Allowable activities may include hiking, hunting, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, education, nature study, and other compatible day-use activities.
4. To protect scenic values on the forest through the use of scenic zoning.
5. To improve wildlife habitat by considering this factor in carrying out forestry activities, planting wildlife shrubs and mowing access trails.

C. MANAGEMENT POLICIES

It shall be the policy of the Department to maintain the Coulee Experimental Forest to meet the objectives as stated in Section 8 of this plan. The following comprehensive management policies have been formulated to meet these objectives:

Research Policy -- To maintain the property for forestry and watershed research in the spirit and manner of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - U.S. Forest Service lease agreement.

Forest Management Policy -- To manage the forestland using the Silvicultural Handbook management recommendations for the species involved. The full-range of management practices will be used as needed. Modifications of recommended practices will be used as necessary to meet research, recreational, and scenic zone management objectives.

Recreational Policy -- To provide for extensive day-use activities by providing the land base for permitted activities. Motorized vehicular use will be restricted to public roads. Support facilities for the recreationist will be limited to signing, access, parking and similar minimal needs.

Scenic Zone Policy -- To protect and enhance the scenic values existing on the forest within the biological limitations of the vegetational types present.

D. RESOURCE CAPABILITY

1. Soils and Geology

A. General Description

The forest is located in the western upland physiographic region of Wisconsin, best described as a dissected limestone cuesta. Ridges, gently rounded and of uniform elevation, are dissected by narrow valleys with steeply sloping hillsides. The ridges are capped with Lower Magnesian dolomite underlain by soft, highly erosive Upper Cambrian sandstone. Rock strata are nearly horizontal. A layer of windblown silt covers the area varying in depth to a maximum of about 12 feet. Vertical drop from ridgetop to mainstream valley is normally about 500 feet, with the maximum known elevation on the forest at 1,314 feet. (See Map, Appendix S)

Fayette and Dubuque silt loams predominate on the ridges and upper slopes with Fayette (valley phase) and Gale silt loams, Hixton sandy loam and Gale-Hixton complex covering most of the lower elevations. There are small areas of Port Byron, Lawson and Huntsville, and Chaseburg-Judson silt loams, which are excellent agricultural-type soils.

Soil depths vary within the Dubuque soils from 10 to 42 inches, the Gale silt loams from 20 to 40 inches deep, Gale-Hixton complex 24 to 48 inches, and the remaining types from 42 to 60 inches in depth.

2. Wildlife Management

A. Wildlife Population and Trends

In recent years, deer population has been good and the squirrel, ruffed grouse and raccoon populations fair. Fox populations vary considerably from year to year. Rabbits are scarce.

The white-tailed deer spring population averages from 5 to 10 deer per square mile of deer range and from 10 to 15 in the fall. Average annual harvest is approximately 3.5 deer per square mile of range or 15 to 20 deer for the forest. Poaching is considered to be a constant drain on the herd.

Squirrel populations are somewhat cyclic, depending to some extent on mast production.

Ruffed grouse should maintain a fair population, the trend being toward a rather stable situation.

B. Wildlife Habitat Condition and Trends

Prior to the establishment of the forest, the area was either cropland, pasture or woodland. Most woodland was grazed reducing food and cover for wildlife. Cessation of these agricultural practices improved habitat. The addition of conifer cover and increases in tree and brush reproduction have significantly improved habitat. Beneficial wildlife shrubs such as sumac, gray dogwood, wild apple trees and plum trees are present on the forest. Several age classes of aspen are present.

Small scattered, brush areas are converting to tree cover with a reduction in edge area. This is mitigated somewhat by the edge maintained around plantations.

Habitat conditions for ruffed grouse and squirrels are good. Deer habitat appears to be improving.

C. Wildlife Management

Wildlife management will be integrated into all management activities on the forest, particularly forestry practices. These vegetative manipulations afford the greatest opportunity to increase or sustain wildlife populations. Game species are present in sufficient numbers to warrant management. Emphasis will be given to forest game species.

Layout and design of harvest areas will include consideration for increasing wildlife-valuable "edge" and the maintenance of den trees. Intermediate cuttings, by allowing light to the forest floor, will increase the amount of available wildlife food plants and cover. Cuttings in the aspen types, found scattered throughout the forest, will be designed to provide a scattering of age classes, thereby promoting ruffed grouse and deer populations.

Shrub plantings will be established by wildlife personnel to add to the diversity of food and cover available to wildlife. A limited amount of small openings maintenance is being considered in two areas where heavy concentrations of undesirable species (both to wildlife and forestry interests) is taking place.

Annual mowing of nine miles of game trail-access-firebreak maintenance will be accomplished. This provides openings (between plantation and natural forest), edge and hunter access all at the same time.

3. Forest Cover

A. Original Cover

According to historical accounts, the area in southwest Wisconsin near LaCrosse had very little wooded cover. The early cover type would have been oak-hickory. As early as 1765, there were only scattered groves of trees reported and fires were common by the Indians for driving game. When settlers began arriving in 1855, material for the building of cabins was scarce. Yet it is reported that ridges and watercourses were heavily wooded by 1915, apparently having been allowed to grow up after the coming of the settlers. This corresponds to the common ages of timber found in the area at present.

8. Present Cover

The forest is predominately oak type with a few northern hardwood, aspen and birch stands. Other hardwood species present include basswood, white ash, hard maple, hickory, American and red elm, butternut and cottonwood. A small amount acreage-wise of conifer type has been established, mostly in red pine, white pine, and European larch. Other conifers, mostly in small research plots, include white pine, white and Norway spruce, European larch, ponderosa pine, red cedar, jack pine and Scotch pine.

There is also an upland brush type which is slowly converting to forest, a portion being maintained for game habitat.

Approximately 12 percent of the forest is in a grass type comprised of former crop and pasture land. Though small in acreage, the grassy, south and west-facing slopes called "goat prairies" are an important scenic aspect of the forest landscape.

C. Site Quality and Potential

A complete range of site qualities exist on the forest. The great majority of sites are medium to good. These support good stands of sawtimber and poles, depending to a great degree on past management practices. The potential of these sites is sawtimber material.

The poor sites show little potential for other than pulpwood material. Their aspect is generally south or west, typically with shallow soils. Since site quality is tied to logging chance and operability on the forest, these sites show little potential for production of wood products. From a watershed standpoint and for scenic and esthetic reasons, maintenance of forest cover on these sites is important.

Poor non-forest sites are generally esthetically pleasing and add variety to the area. They are generally not suitable for reforestation.

4. Water Resources

There are no streams or lakes on the forest, however, there are several small springs scattered throughout the forest. They occur at scattered locations and are classed as gravity contact springs. Most fluctuate greatly in base flow (10-200 gallons per minute) with early spring being the period of greatest output. None provide enough water for fish management purposes or water-based recreation on the forest, but they do feed several trout streams. Such streams as the Russian Coulee, Pleasant Valley and Bostwick Creeks are all dependent upon spring sources to maintain cool summer water temperature.

5. Historical and Archaeological Features

There are no known structures or sites present on the forest. There are natural features such as rock outcrops and "goat prairies" which are quite interesting but have little significance beyond that.

6. Ownership

Current acreage within the approved property boundary is 2,971.7 acres. It is all owned in fee.

Current land use is governed by the original property objective and more recent statements of objectives. Hence, certain areas were set aside for watershed research purposes, with the balance to be managed as state forest, providing the uses were compatible.

Two-hundred and fifty-five acres are in land-use agreements with local landowners as follows:

- A. Agricultural use in exchange for ingress-egress 62 acres. This acreage is expected to drop to approximately 20 acres within three years.
- B. Agricultural use for research purposes - 54 acres. Necessitated by current research, this use is expected to terminate prior to 1980.
- C. Agricultural use to maintain open space - 139 acres. Due to planting, this will be reduced to 120 acres.

Agricultural use includes the production of row crops, hay harvesting, and pasture.

The remaining lands are managed as state forest, with one timber sale completed and others planned as per the forest reconnaissance completed in the spring of 1971.

7. Present Use

Much use is made of the property for hunting and scenic driving with some hiking and trail riding of horses in early fall. Cross-country skiing use is increasing.

Estimated annual public uses, in occasions, are as follows:

Hunting	900
Scenic driving	300
Hiking	200
Horseback riding	200
Cross-country skiing	150
Miscellaneous	300

8. Land Use Potential

See master plan map.

Map Symbol

SC	The scenic areas contain a variety of cover types. They are each bisected lengthwise by a public road and will be managed for aesthetic purposes.
RD ₁	The demonstration and/or experimental areas were selected by the U.S.F.S. for the following reasons: variety of aspects of the terrain; physical characteristics resulting from former land uses; variety of cover types.
RD ₃	The forest production areas consist of mainly oak types and contain 80 acres of pine type.
RD ₄	An old limestone quarry.
AD ₁	The equipment storage site contains a building which is used for storage and a house with lifetime residency.
NA ₁	This is a heavily stocked, two story oak sawtimber stand.

E. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

Law enforcement is a problem on the forest as there is no resident DNR employe on the property. Also, it is near LaCrosse with its large population and has road access to a large, relatively isolated land area in the center of the forest. These factors are conducive to uncontrolled vehicular travel, with attendant resource damages, and much use of the area for beer parties and other activities. Litter and unauthorized fires are common.

Much high value butternut sawtimber has and is being lost to an unknown disease. Since all ages are affected, future resource losses are apparent. The forest is one of several sites in Wisconsin where field investigations into the cause of the dieback is being conducted. Losses of red oak to the oak wilt fungus varies from year to year but progresses more slowly. Controls are known but are not economically feasible in a forest situation.

The forest has twelve miles of boundary, all against privately-owned land with nineteen separate owners. Seven and one-half miles is fenced, of which the DNR is bound by agreement to maintain one and one-half miles. Adjacent owners are bound by agreement to maintain two miles and the remainder is presumed to be fifty-fifty maintenance. Three quarters of a mile need fencing at this time. The whole boundary fence situation on this rough topography property presents a management problem.

F. LONG-RANGE RESOURCE AND RECREATION NEEDS

1. Forest Management

A complete on-the-ground forest reconnaissance was completed on the forest in 1971. It is scheduled to be updated as work is accomplished and re-done at ten-year intervals. This reconnaissance details the present forest cover and outlines recommended forest management practices to improve the quantity and quality of the forest. At the same time, the hydrologic qualities of the land will be maintained and improved.

Forest management practices will include timber harvest, both for intermediate cuttings to maintain growth and as regeneration cuttings. Timber stand improvement practices are required in some very young stands to "weed out" poor quality stems, concentrating growth on larger, well-formed trees destined to be the future timber crop, both in conifers and hardwoods. Pruning of conifers to improve stem quality is also needed.

Tree planting in open and understocked areas where necessary would also be accomplished. Establishment of desirable tree cover on productive sites enhances forest production and wildlife habitat.

Since the primary purpose of state forest land is for the practice of silviculture and the growing of recurring timber crops and because it is proper stewardship of land to do so, it is important that these practices be undertaken. The property has been and will be used also as a demonstration area for forestry and watershed management practices so they should be completed as needed.

2. Resource Protection

The steep topography and easily erodable soils on the forest require the protection of vegetative cover. Indiscriminate vehicular use, particularly on old trails and the open ridgeland, requires control. Such use on moist or wet soils, as usually occur during spring and fall seasons, result in "rutted", multiple tracks across the landscape.

Fire protection for the forest is basic to all activities. Wildfire impairs the value of the land for forest products, disrupts the hydrologic benefits involved and reduces the scenic values. There are several areas of conifers, second only to grass in flammability, where considerable value in establishment costs and future product values are involved which warrant increased protection.

It is imperative that this land area be protected and managed in order that it is available for possible future forestry and watershed-related research. State forest management was previously determined to be in accord with said research.

3. Recreation Development

Termination of road access to a portion of the open ridge top will require widening of a portion of an access road and development of a parking lot. This will accomplish protection of this area as detailed under Resources Protection. The road and parking lot will provide safe and adequate access and parking. In addition, a beginning point will be established for public use of the forest in that area. Another parking lot will be needed on the west side of the Forest to serve users in that area.

Present use includes considerable hunting and this will continue to expand as less private land is available to the hunting public. Continued reversion to natural conditions and increased land management resulting in habitat improvement and more game will speed this trend.

The Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan for Region 4 states that hiking needs are met through 1980. Since the greater LaCrosse area has nearly 60,000 people, few public hiking trails occur in the area, and with an expanding interest in backpacking, it is presumed that this activity will increase on the forest. This may necessitate the development of some trails later in the decade. The cross-country ski trail could be used and another corridor is designated on the action map.

No mention is made of cross-country skiing in the Region 4 Recreation Plan. It is a rapidly expanding sport particularly among LaCrosse area residents, who now use the forest regularly for this activity. The terrain, between the ridgeland, slopes, and valleys, provides ample opportunities for trails suitable to all skill levels of skiing. Trail location and marking, at a minimum, will be necessary. A safer and more satisfying experience to the skier will result.

The forest is also used by area residents as a horseback riding area. One-day rides have occurred annually in recent years and several individual requests have been received for this use. The Regional Plan states that regional residents engage in this activity at a rate above the state average. Present use on the property does not necessitate formal trail development. A proposed trail corridor is included however, should future use and demand warrant trail establishment.

There is some interest in the development of a shooting range on the forest, there being no public ranges in the county. Establishment would depend on finding a responsible party, preferably a public body, to develop, maintain, operate and insure such a range. An area suitable, terrain-wise, to that use has been delineated.

G. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Six land use classes: scenic area, natural area, experimental management area, forest production area, mineral extraction area, and equipment storage site are used on the forest. These are shown on the master plan map in the Appendix to this plan.

These land use classes meet the objectives for the forest by providing for experimental research work, forest production and wildlife habitat improvement. Interchange between the experimental and forest production areas is possible as it is not always possible to determine specific experimental area needs in advance. The designation shown should provide these needs in general. Specific requirements could be met from the production area as the need arose. A twenty-acre area is designated as a natural area and managed as per Department guidelines for natural areas.

Extensive recreation uses will be fit in, particularly use of existing trails and ridgeland areas to meet needs as outlined in F-3 of this plan and as current use indicates.

The scenic "goat prairie" and the esthetic aspects of public roads will be protected by special scenic management areas (see Appendix for map of areas).

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The management action chosen for the Coulee Experimental Forest is outlined as follows:

<u>Action Code</u>	<u>Acquisition</u>
	One parcel of land within the forest boundary is a first priority for acquisition and two are of second priority. All should be fee acquisitions. These acquisitions would complete the forest boundary.
A-1	The first priority is six acres in size, is currently used as a vacation camping spot and should be acquired to avoid conflicting use next to and on the forest. The second priorities are as follows:
A-2	Section 13 - 80 acres in pasture, partially wooded.
A-3	Section 18 - 40 acres in pasture (34 acres) and cropland (6 acres), steep slopes, scattered forest cover and eroding.
A-4	Section 25 - 40 acres in cropland (22 acres) and pastured forestland (18 acres). Cropland is good quality.
	All acquisitions are shown on a property map in the Appendix. None are necessary to any development or operations-maintenance actions proposed in this plan. However, they should be acquired as they become available for blocking purposes and future use in forest management as potential research area and for wildlife management.

<u>Action Code</u>	<u>Development</u>
	The following development activities are planned. Specific locations for projects will be found on the action maps in the Appendix by using the action code number.
D-1	Harvest annually on a sustained yield basis approximately 25 acres of sawtimber, which is .008 percent of the forest acreage. Management practices used will be as per DNR Manual Codes and the Silvicultural Handbook. Merchantable timber damaged or destroyed by insects, disease, fire or weather conditions will be salvaged.
D-2	Culturally treat 30 acres annually for release, pruning and noncommercial thinning, which is .010 percent of the forest acreage. Practices used will be in accordance with DNR approved management practices.
D-3	Plant an average of 7 acres annually, which is .002 percent of the forest acreage. The main purposes of planting will be forest production and esthetic enhancement of those areas used for extensive recreational pursuits. Planting methods will be varied as necessary to accommodate esthetics while ensuring adequate establishment. Wildlife needs will be considered in species selection.
D-4	Plant or interplant 500 shrubs annually to enhance and improve wildlife habitat. Some selective shrub and tree management, by mechanical means, may be necessary on areas selected to be maintained as wildlife openings. No food patches are planned as it is felt there are sufficient foods presently available in the area.
D-5	Establish a road-cut off and parking lot to control access to the ridgetop area. Widening of the one-half mile of road between County Trunk II and the cutoff site to accommodate two-way traffic will provide safe access. Activities involved include grading, graveling and installing bumper blocks for 20-unit parking lot, followed by seeding of the disturbed area. Grading of the roadway, graveling and signing will be required as well as a gate on the road and a barrier (225 feet long), proposed to be constructed of large boulders and an earthen berm. Garbage containers will be provided and a garbage pickup contract will be sought with the county. Any road maintenance needed (grading) will be sought through the Town of Bangor. This project will allow access control to the ridge-top greatly alleviating fire control, vandalism, and litter problems and simplifying law enforcement efforts on the forest. Resource degradation from vehicular damage will be substantially reduced, yet walk-in access is provided for the forest user. Road access is still available in other areas where the attendant problems are minimal.

- D-6 A cross-country ski trail is proposed to be developed and signed, approximately five miles in length. It will not be established until after the road cutoff project is completed in order to eliminate conflict between users and vandalism on signing. In the meantime, the area will be made available for this use on an informal basis.
- D-7 Construct a parking area on the west side entrance to the forest. Site preparation, gravelling, bumper blocks and/or posts and signing would be necessary. This would provide a formal parking area for users of that portion of the forest. Approximately 700 feet of new road bed will be needed to establish a loop-type road into and out of the parking area.
- D-8 Construct and sign a hiking trail, should use and demand for same develop. Brushing, trail pad shaping and location signs would be needed.
- D-9 Construct and sign a bridle trail, should use and demand for same warrant it. Brushing, layout of a starting area for the trail, and installation of signs will be needed.

No development for other recreational uses is expected to be needed in the immediate future. Should use and demand indicate changes and/or additions, they will be addressed in the biennial updates to this plan. Any new use proposal would have to conform to the property goals and objectives.

Action Code

Operations - Maintenance

- OM-1 Boundary fence maintenance is required on 3.5 miles annually. Steep topography, location of fences through wooded areas, and the difficulty of reaching some of it result in a greater than average expenditure to accomplish.
- OM-2 Fire control is accomplished by maintenance of a system of emergency fire wardens and agreements with two local fire departments to provide assistance. Annual training is provided for the fire wardens, who are local citizens living adjacent to the forest. Some limited patrolling is done by local DNR personnel. Signing with fire prevention materials has proved fruitless due to vandalism. Installation of the road cutoff, as proposed in this plan, will alleviate the fire hazard by excluding indiscriminate vehicular travel on the ridgetop area.
- OM-3 Cooperation in research projects at this time includes weekly changing of spore traps in a hardwood disease project and monitoring of a reproduction project. Assistance has been and will be provided in remeasurement of reproduction for a continuing silvicultural study. Further cooperation will be extended on research projects according to need and as time is available.
- OM-4 The block of ridgeland in Sections 19 and 30 (see map in Appendix) will be maintained as open space land. Its value for research, the edge for wildlife use, esthetics and many extensive recreational uses is apparent. Such reservation keeps the land in a flexible condition regarding later development possibilities.
- Preservation of open space is easily accomplished by maintenance of tame hay crops on the area. This practice accomplishes several objectives:
- a. Maintains the open space without the cost of mowing by force account expenditure.
 - b. Alleviates the fire hazard from a buildup of uncut vegetation.
 - c. Avoids violation of local noxious weed ordinances.
- Further, sale of the tame hay provides a financial return to the state and contributes tangibly to the local farming economy. Renewal of the tame hay crop, when necessary, is accomplished by land use agreement and sale is by competitive bidding.
- OM-5 Annual treatment of walnut plantations to control competing vegetation and pruning to correct irregular growth habits will be needed. There are seven acres that require such treatment to ensure plantation establishment and growth. Both practices are research-proven and recommended for this high-valued species.

- OM-6 Nine miles of accessway-firebreaks are maintained annually by mowing with tractor and rotary mower. This is a cooperative venture with game management as considerable "edge" is maintained also by this practice, both between plantation areas and between plantation and hardwood or brush areas. These "breaks" will also be available for use as trails (hiking, bridle, and cross-country skiing).
- OM-7 General property operation such as patrol, maintenance of signs, gates, parking lots, trails, service roads, administration of land use agreements and contracts and equipment maintenance will be accomplished as necessary.

In order to complete the management actions recommended in this Master Plan, manpower and funding will be necessary. A joint Natural Resources Technician position is proposed for the Coulee State Experimental Forest and Wildlife Management functions, to be assigned to LaCrosse.

Such a permanent position would be necessary to secure a competent individual with the qualifications necessary to carry out the varied and responsible duties involved. Several forest management functions, including timber harvest, tree planting, and reconnaissance would be included. Property maintenance (trails, boundary fences, parking lots, signs), enforcement patrol, and supervision of LTE employees would also be included in the job description.

Regular patrol is needed and was referred to many times during public comment on the Master Plan. It will be essential to effective establishment of the access control program referred to in the Master Plan. Law enforcement credentials would be required.

The wildlife management portion of the position would involve wildlife management work on Coulee Forest, Van Loon Wildlife Area, and the leased Bangor Public Hunting Ground. Leasing, posting, game bird stocking, law enforcement, habitat development, and game surveys are examples of the work involved. The Van Loon Master Plan is due in 1980 and will detail work to be done there. Timber sale work is expected to increase there and would involve this position in sales establishment, scaling, and sale inspection.

Manpower and funding requirements will also be initiated through regular budgeting procedures for the 1979-81 biennium.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROPERTY DETAIL	PAGE <u>1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> AREA SUMMARY	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT SUMMARY	OF <u>2</u>

DATA ON THIS FORM APPLIES TO DEVELOPMENT BEGINNING:

☐ BIENNIAL PROPOSAL 19 78 TO 19 88☒ LONG RANGE PROPOSAL 19 78 TO 19 88

PROPERTY CODE		PROPERTY NAME		PROPERTY PRIORITY		DISTRICT		AREA		COUNTY					
		Coulee State Experimental Forest				West Central		La Crosse		La Crosse					
SUBPROGRAM	DEVELOPMENT CODE	DEVELOPMENT CATEGORIES & SUBCATEGORIES	NAME, LOCATION, OR DESCRIPTION OF SUPPORT FACILITIES	UNITS		CONTRACT \$	ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COSTS				YEAR SCHEDULED	SOURCES OF FUNDING	DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PRIORITY		
				TYPE OF UNIT	NUMBER OF UNITS		MAN MONTHS	LABOR \$	MATERIAL \$	TOTAL \$				ENGINEERING \$	GRAND TOTAL \$
FoM	D-1	Harvest		Acres	25		1.0	\$560	\$15	\$575		\$575		Ann-ual Acct.	1
FoM	D-2	Cultural		Acres	30		2.2	\$1,250	\$50	\$1,300		\$1,300		"	1
FoM	D-3	Tree planting		Acres	7		.5	\$280	\$200	\$480		\$480		"	1
FoM	D-4	Shrub planting		Acres	.5		.05	---	---	---		---		"	1
FoM	D-5	Road improvement-road cut-off - park. lot		Miles	.5 1-each	\$30,000	.3	\$170	\$50	\$220		\$30,220	77-78 Road Fund	1	
FoM	D-6	Ski trail		Miles	5		2	\$1,020	\$500	\$1,620		\$1,620	77-78 Force Acct.	1	
FoM	D-7	Parking lot with entrances		Number	1	\$15,000	.4	\$230	\$60	\$290	\$200	\$15,490	79-80 Road Fund	1	
FoM	D-8	Hiking trail		Miles	(2) 3		2	\$1,120	\$150	\$1,270		\$1,270	Force Acct.	2	
FoM	D-9	Bridle trail		Miles	(2) 12		3	\$1,680	\$300	\$1,980		\$1,980	Force Acct.	2	
		(1) LTE funds.													
		(2) Depending on need and demand - figures shown are proposals only.													
		(3) See (2) above.													
FoM	OM-1	Fence maintenance	See land use map	Miles	2		.25	\$140	\$150	\$290		\$290	Ann-ual Acct.	1	
FoM	OM-2	Fire control	Entire property	Acres	2,970		.4	\$224	\$200	\$424		\$424	"	"	
FoM	OM-3	Research	See land use map	Pro-jects	2		.5	(4) \$640	\$75	\$715		\$715	"	"	

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PAGE 2

AREA SUMMARY

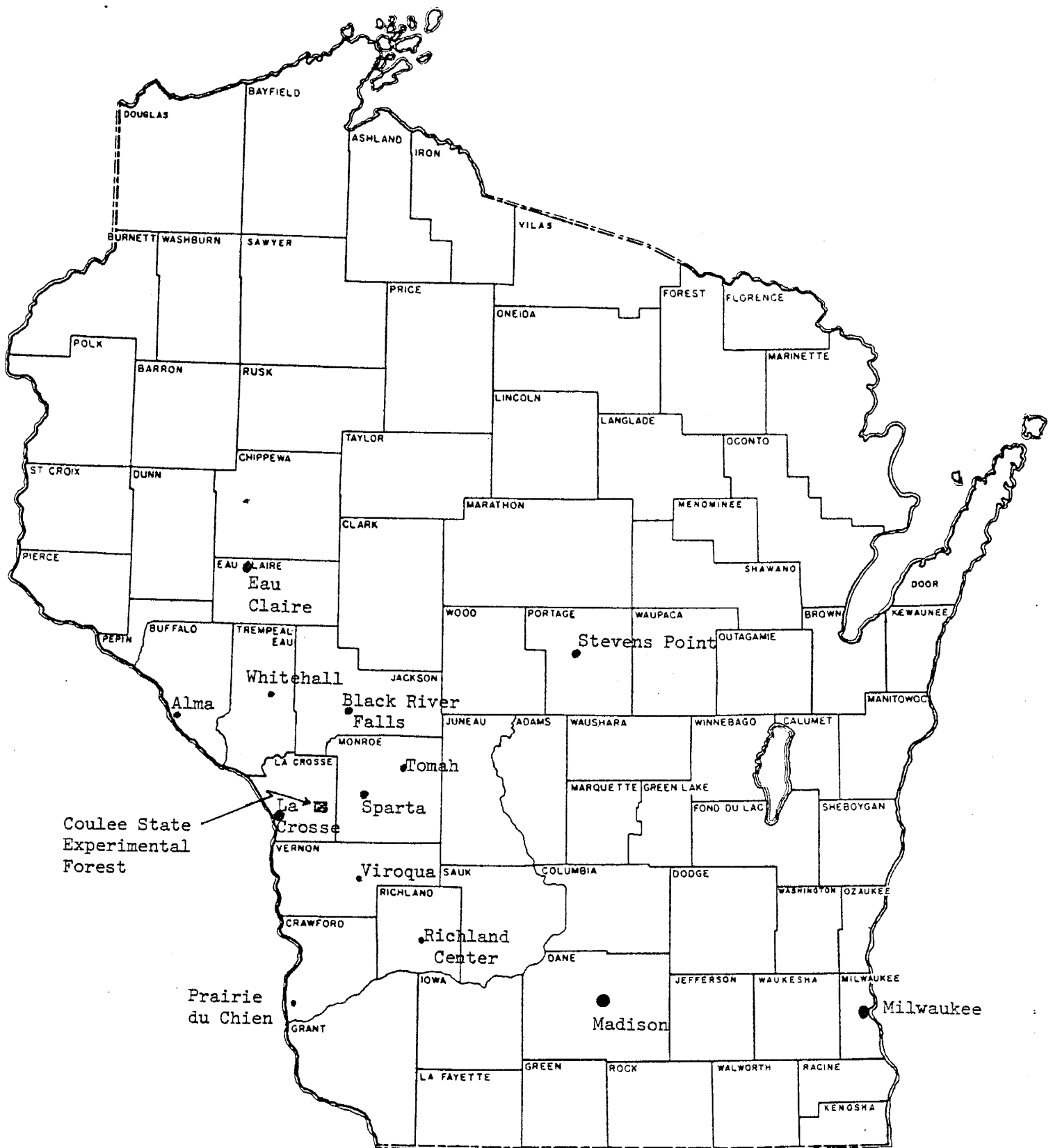
OF 2

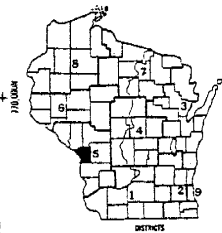
DATA ON THIS FORM APPLIES TO DEVELOPMENT BEGINNING:

☐ BIENNIAL PROPOSAL 19____ TO 19____

☒ LONG RANGE PROPOSAL 1978 TO 19 88

[illegible]





1:500,000
R-8-W

T-18-N
TREMPEALEAU CO.

Town of Caledonia

U.S. Army Radio Site
T-17-N

T-16-N

R-8-W

T-15-N

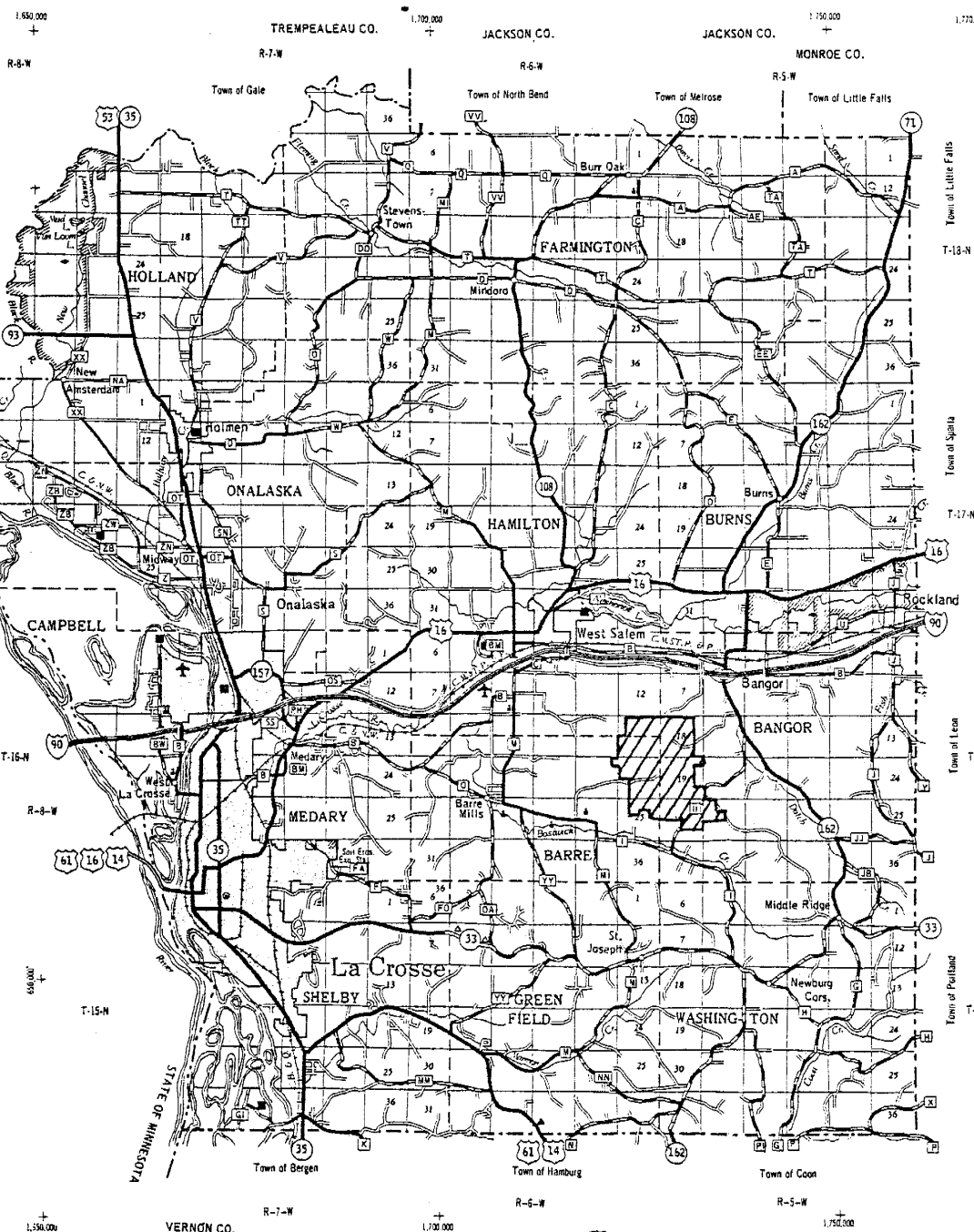
VERNON CO.

1:500,000

1:750,000

1:750,000

1:750,000

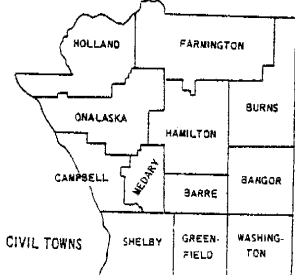


- LEGEND**
- Portland Cement
 - Bitum Concrete
 - Gravel
 - Earth
 - *Town Road
 - Fire Lane
 - Multilane Divided
 - Freeway
 - Interchange
 - Highway Separation
 - Interstate Highway No.
 - U.S. Highway No.
 - State Highway No.
 - County Hwy. Letter
 - Railroad
 - Dam
 - State Boundary
 - County Boundary
 - Civil Town Boundary
 - Corporate Limits
 - Nat. & State Forests
 - Airport
 - Fish Hatchery
 - Game Farm
 - County Seat
 - Unincorp. Village
 - Schools
 - Public Hunt or Fish Gnd
 - Hospital
 - Ranger Station
 - Public Camp & Picnic Gnd
 - State Park
 - County Park
 - Wayside

MILES OF HIGHWAY
as of Jan. 1, 1975

STATE	149
COUNTY	291
LOCAL ROADS	565
OTHER ROADS	9
TOTAL FOR COUNTY	1005

Land Area	559 Sq. Mi.
Population	73,387
County Seat	La Crosse



LA CROSSE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
Madison, Wisconsin
SCALE 0 1 2 MILES
Corrected for
JAN. 1976
Compiled from U.S.G.S. Quadrangles
Based on Aerial Photographs

LA CROSSE 32-5

MONROE CO.

Town of Little Falls

T-18-N

Town of Sparta

T-17-N

Town of Leon

T-16-N

Town of Portland

T-15-N

MONROE CO.

1:750,000

1:750,000

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT LEASE FOR
COULEE EXPERIMENTAL FOREST

(Under Authority of Sec. 1, Act of August 4, 1965;
79 Stat. 431; 7 U. S. C. 2250a; And Act of May 22, 1928
16 U. S. C. 581a-1.)

Lease No. 13-296

Date of Lease April 3, 1972

LESSOR: State of Wisconsin, Acting by and
through the Department of Natural Resources

LESSEE: The United States of America by the
Director of the North Central Forest
Experiment Station, Forest Service,
Department of Agriculture

THIS LEASE, made and entered into this date by and between the STATE OF WISCONSIN acting by and through the Department of Natural Resources, whose address is Madison, Wisconsin, and whose interest in the property hereinafter described is that of owner, hereinafter called the Lessor, and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA by the Director of the North Central Forest Experiment Station, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, whose office address is St. Paul, Minnesota, hereinafter called the Government: WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Government to conduct forestry, research and related studies, and

WHEREAS, the lessor has land adapted to the research to be conducted, and desires to lease such land to the Government,

NOW THEREFORE: The parties herto for the considerations herein-
after mentioned, covenant and agree as follows:

2

1. The Lessor hereby leases to the Government for forest research and related scientific purposes tracts of land in La Crosse County, Wisconsin, heretofore selected by the Government, containing 2,942.54 acres, more or less, and being lands shown on the attached map and described as follows:

T16N, R5W:

Section 18: $W\frac{1}{2}$ NE; $E\frac{1}{2}$ NW; NW NW (45.26 acres); SW NW (45.36 acres); $E\frac{1}{2}$ SW; NW SW (45.46 acres); SW SW (45.46 acres); $W\frac{1}{2}$ SE.

Section 19: $N\frac{1}{2}$ NE; SW NE; $W\frac{1}{2}$; $W\frac{1}{2}$ SE; SE SE.

Section 29: NW NW except 0.65 acre bounded by a line beginning at the southeast corner of the NW NW, thence north 1 chain, thence west 6.5 chains, thence south 1 chain, thence east 6.5 chains to point of beginning (39.35 acres).

SW NW except 3.25 acres bounded by a line beginning at northeast corner of the SW NW, thence south 5 chains, thence west 6.5 chains, thence north 5 chains, thence east 6.5 chains to point of beginning (36.75 acres).

SE NW except 6.00 acres bounded by a line beginning at the southeast corner of the SE NW, thence north 6 chains, thence west 10 chains, thence south 6 chains, thence east 10 chains to the point of beginning; and except 2.0 acres bounded by a line beginning at the northwest corner of the SE NW, thence south 5 chains, thence east 4 chains, thence north 5 chains, thence west 4 chains to point of beginning (32.00 acres).

Section 30: $NE\frac{1}{2}$; $E\frac{1}{2}$ NW; NW NW (46.34 acres); SW NW (46.06 acres); $N\frac{1}{2}$ SE.

T16N, R6W:

Section 13: $NE\frac{1}{2}$; $E\frac{1}{2}$ NW; $S\frac{1}{2}$.

Section 23: NE NE (40.50 acres).

Section 24: $N\frac{1}{2}$; $E\frac{1}{2}$ SW; $SE\frac{1}{2}$.

Section 25: $N\frac{1}{2}$ NE; SE NE; $E\frac{1}{2}$ NW.

3

2. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises with their appurtenances for the term beginning July 1, 1972, through June 30, 1987, subject to termination and renewal rights as may be hereinafter set forth.

3. The Government shall pay the Lessor upon execution of this lease rent of one dollar (\$1.00) per year in consideration for the right to use the said premises during the stated term and renewal thereof. A further consideration is the benefit to be derived by the Lessor from research activities conducted by the Government in cooperation with the Lessor.

4. This lease may be renewed at the option of the Government for a period of 15 years under the terms and conditions specified herein, provided notice be given in writing to the Lessor at least one year before this lease otherwise would expire.

5. The Government may terminate this lease at any time by giving at least 90-days' notice in writing to the Lessor.

6. The leased premises shall be used only for purposes mutually agreed upon.

7. The Government, during the occupancy of the said premises under the terms of this lease, shall have the reasonable right free of charge to ingress to and egress from said property for the uses and purposes herein mentioned.

8. The Lessor will provide such utilization roads for the area herein leased as it does in the utilization of other similar forest lands belonging to said Lessor. The actual construction of these utilization roads may be done by the Lessor or the Government as may be periodically and mutually agreed upon.

4

9. The Lessor shall provide forest fire protection for the lands herein leased that will include: (a) maintaining a fire detection system, (b) suppression of fires as required. All costs of any additional fire protection that may be requested by the Government shall be paid by the United States.

10. The Government shall have the right, during the existence of this lease, to erect such structures and associated and related facilities as may be needed; to erect additions or signs upon the premises hereby leased; such improvements shall be and remain the property of the Government and may be removed therefrom by the Government within a reasonable time after termination of this lease; to dispose of improvements in place, in the event that use is discontinued by the Government, provided that if disposition of the improvements is to a party or parties other than the Lessor, the improvements be removed from the premises within one year.

11. Any sales of stumpage or cut forest products shall be conducted by the Lessor under appropriate State of Wisconsin statutes and under the policies of the Department of Natural Resources with the prior knowledge and agreement of the Director of the North Central Forest Experiment Station or his authorized representative.

12. The Government, within the limits of available funds and personnel and consistent with working plans of experiments, will conduct on the land herein leased experimental work in forestry or related studies, adapted to the needs of the region where the said land is located, with the object of supplying practical forest-land-management

5

information to the owners of similar land: such studies within the general fields of watershed and forest management may include, but are not limited to the following: hydrologic and soil erosion studies, logging studies, reforestation studies, and silvicultural and cutting-method studies.

13. The Lessor shall join the Government periodically as needed in conferences to review working plans of research projects and to consider additional studies pertinent to the solution of forestry and related land-management problems of the region.

14. Periodically during the term of the lease, the Government shall make available to the Lessor the findings from experiments and research herein provided for, but no data therein contained shall be given publicity in any manner by said Lessor without the consent of the Director of the North Central Forest Experiment Station, it being understood that the right to publish or otherwise impart to the public the results of the experiments conducted hereunder shall be vested in the Government, but the preliminary reports will be provided to the Lessor prior to publication by the Government.

15. The lands herein leased shall be available to the Department of Natural Resources for normal State Forest uses, provided that such uses do not hinder or interfere with the use of the lands for the purposes herein set forth.

16. Nothing in this lease shall be construed as obligating the Forest Service to expend, or as involving the United States in any obligation for the future payment of money, in excess of appropriations authorized by law and administratively allocated for this work.

6

17. This lease may be assigned in whole or in part by either party, but only with the consent of the other party, and any sale or other disposition of any of said lands by the Lessor shall be subject to this lease.

18. No Member of, or Delegate to, Congress, or Resident Commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this lease contract, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this lease contract if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

19. In connection with the performance of work under this contract, the Lessee agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, sex, religion, color, or national origin. The aforesaid provision shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Lessee agrees to post in conspicuous places, available for employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the contracting officer setting forth the provisions of the nondiscrimination clause.

7

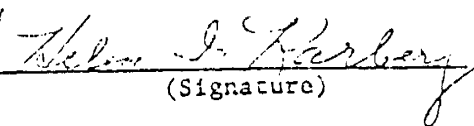
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto subscribed their names as of the date first above written.

LESSOR:

State of Wisconsin, Acting By and Through the
Department of Natural Resources

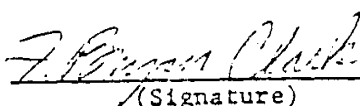
By  Secretary
(Signature) (Official Title)

IN PRESENCE OF:

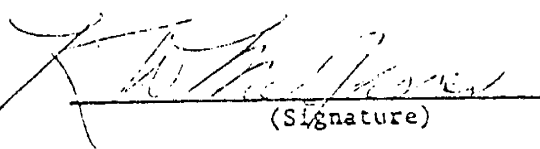
 Box 450, Madison, Wisconsin 53701
(Signature) (Address)

LESSEE:

United States of America

By  Acting Director, North Central
(Signature) Forest Experiment Station, Forest
Service Department of Agriculture
(Official Title)

IN PRESENCE OF:

 3078 Mildred Drive
(Signature) St. Paul, Minnesota 55113
(Address)



4859

680 000
FEET

4858

3 M. TO WIS. TR.
BANGOR VIA WIS. TR.

4856

507
4855

4854

C

500

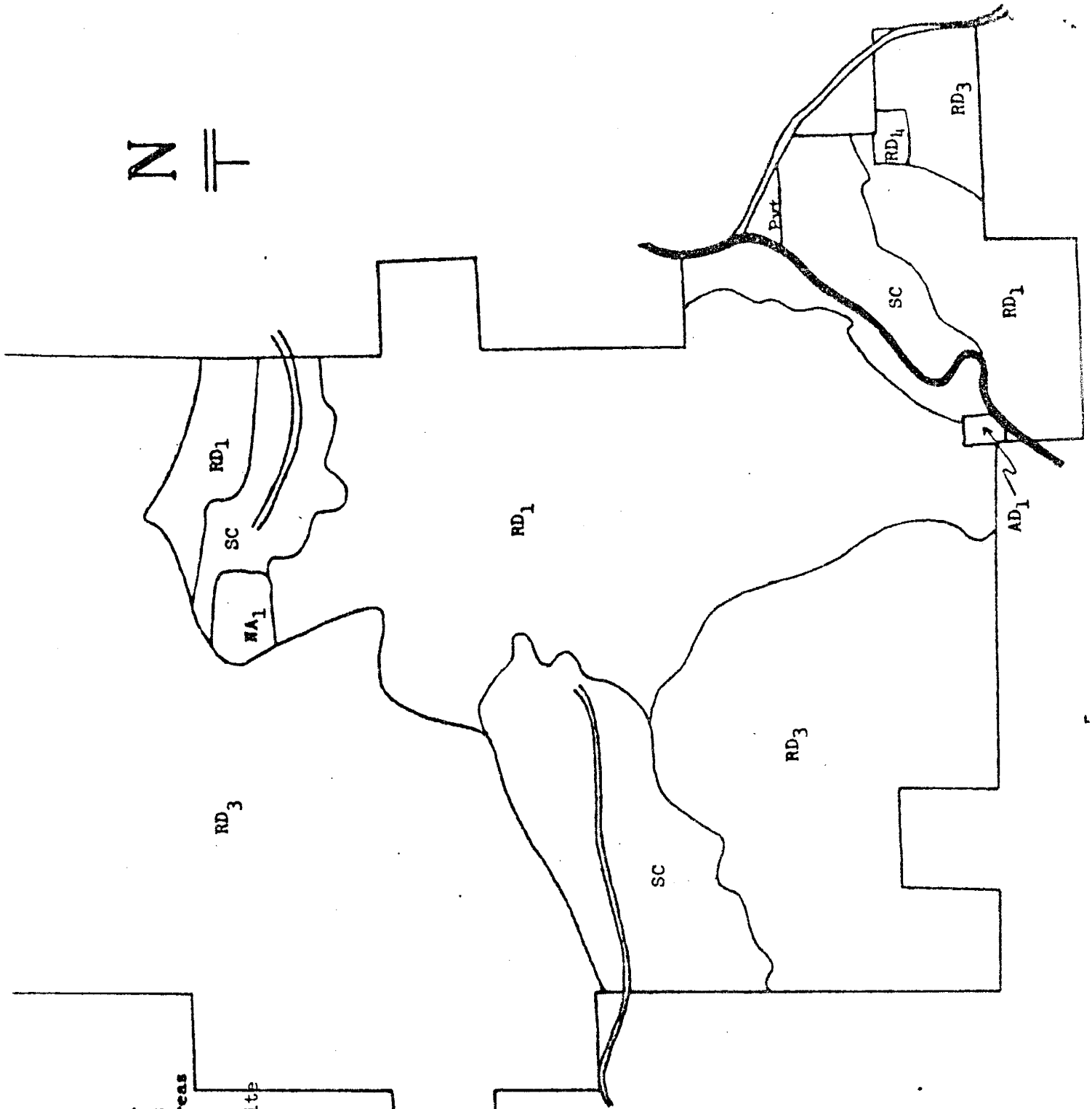
$$\mathbb{Z} \mid -$$


TOWN ROADS =
COUNTY ROADS

LAND USE CLASSES

SC - Scenic Areas
 RD₁ - Demonstration and/or
 Experimental Areas
 RD₃ - Forest Production Areas
 RD₄ - Mineral Extraction
 Areas
 AD₁ - Equipment Storage Site
 NA₁ - Natural Area

TOWN ROADS ==
 COUNTY ROADS ==

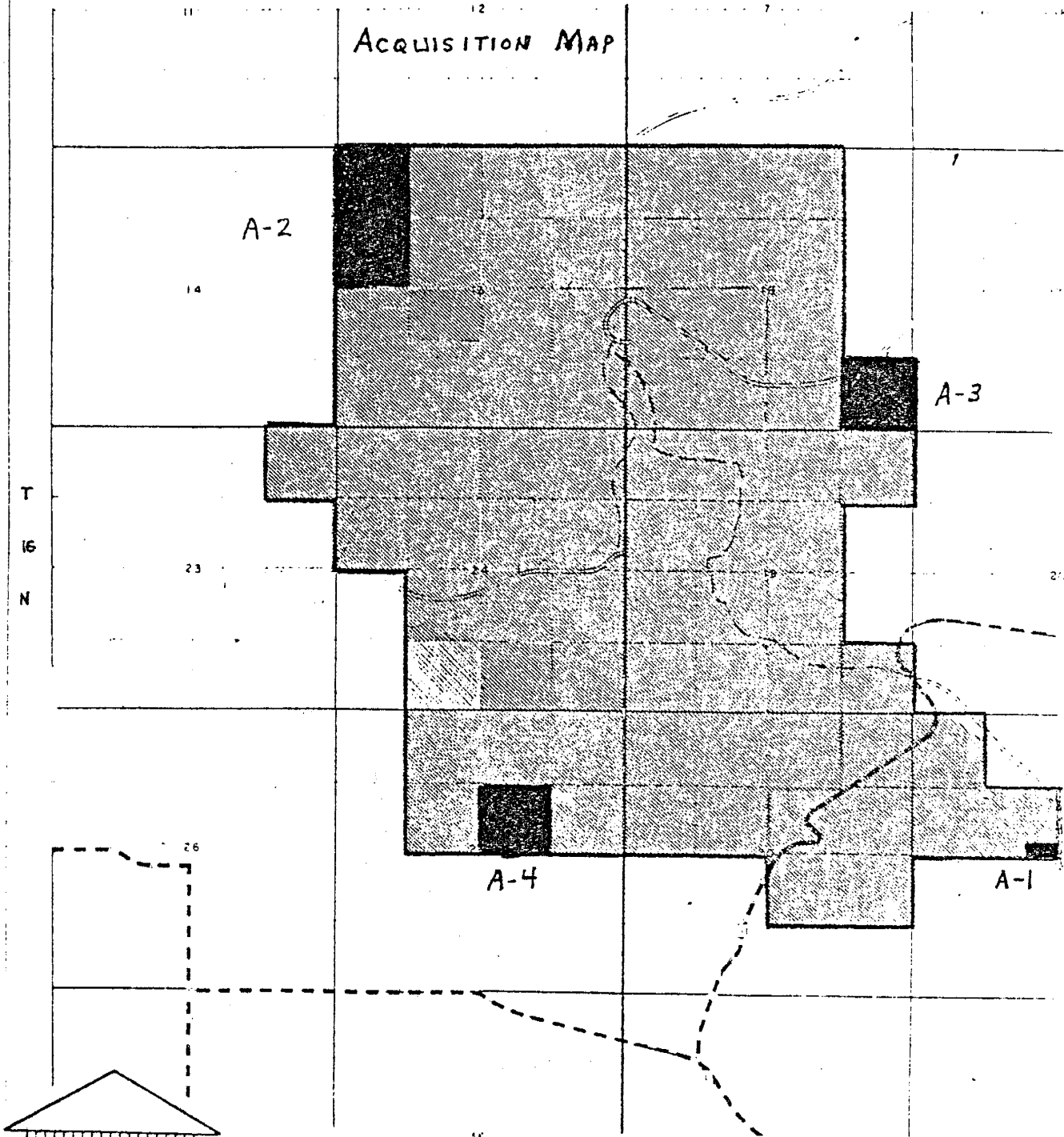


LA CROSSE
COUNTY



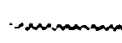
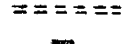


R 6 W

R 3 W

ACQUISITION MAP

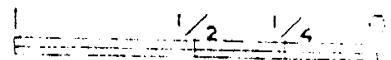


Coulee Experimental Forest

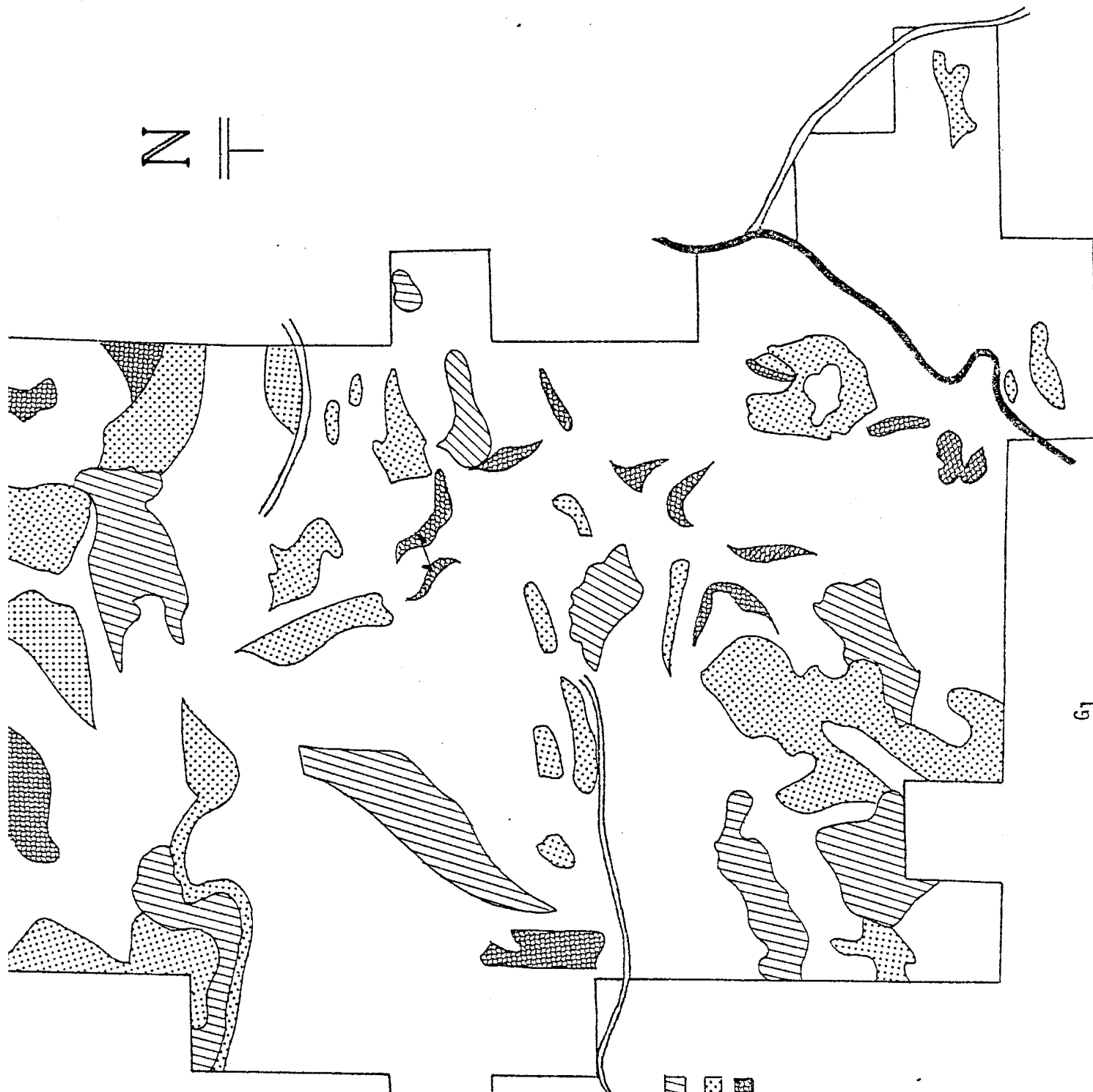
-  W.C.D. Owned May 1, 1968
-  Under Option
-  Project Boundary
-  Town Road
-  Trail
-  Acquisition needs

Total Acreage 26900 A

SCALE IN MILES



N



TIMBER HARVEST
CULTURAL
TREE PLANTING

TOWN ROADS
COUNTY ROADS

DEVELOPMENT

- D4 SHRUB PLANTING
- D6 SKI TOURING TRAIL
- D7 PARKING LOT
- D8 HIKING TRAIL
- D9 BRIDLE TRAIL
- RANGE LOCATION R/L

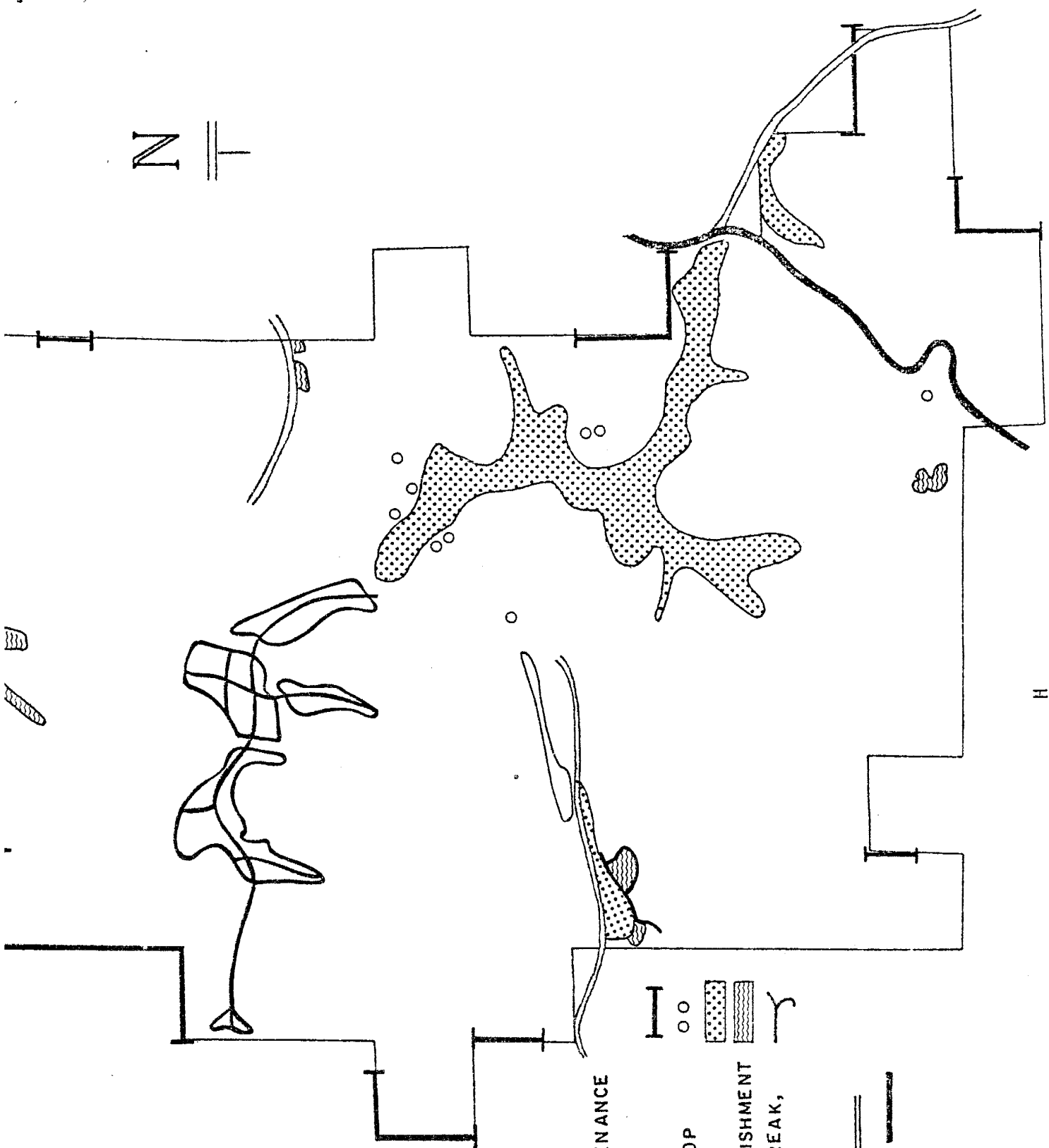
- TOWN ROADS
- COUNTY ROADS

N

D5 ROAD CUT-OFF

R/L

G2



OPERATIONS MAINTENANCE

QMI FENCE MTC.

OM3 RESEARCH CO-OP

OM4 OPEN SPACE

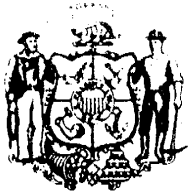
OM5 WALNUT ESTABLISHMENT

OM6 ACCESS, FIREBREAK,

MOWING

TOWN ROADS

COUNTY ROADS.



State of Wisconsin

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Carroll D. Besadny
Secretary

BOX 7921
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707

March 30, 1987

File Ref. 2000

Mr. William T. Conley
Act. Assistant Director, RSS
United States Dept. of Agriculture
Forest Service
1992 Folwell Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

RECEIVED
MAR 31 1987
BUREAU OF FORESTRY

Dear Mr. Conley:

This is in response to your letter of February 23, 1987 to Gerald Vande Hei renewing the lease on the Coulee Experimental Forest in La Crosse County. It is my pleasure to confirm the lease extension for a period of 15 years. All conditions of the lease will remain the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. E. Steffes".

Richard E. Steffes, Chief
Realty Management and Operations Section
Bureau of Real Estate

RES: js

cc: C. Evert-RE/4

J. Frank-FM/4

A. Hagen-La Crosse

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: December 5, 1978
To: Anthony S. Earl - 14

File Ref:

From: M. E. Reinke

MLER

Subject: Approval of the Coulee State Forest Master Plan

We are pleased to report that the Coulee State Forest Master Plan has been completed and awaits final approval by the Natural Resources Board.

A public informational meeting was conducted in LaCrosse County at West Salem, Wisconsin in January 1978 and written comments and suggestions were accepted following this meeting. Copies of the proposed plan were also mailed to concerned individuals, groups and advisory councils for their comments and suggestions. Changes were subsequently made in the plan following these inputs.

On October 31, 1978, copies of the revised plan were again sent to the concerned advisory councils and Department Bureaus for further review and comments with appropriate changes made in the plan.

In summary, the master plan provides for:

- A. Six land use classifications:
Scenic areas, demonstration and/or experimental areas, forest production areas, mineral extraction area, equipment storage site and a natural area.
- B. Development:
Forestry activities include an annual harvest of 25 acres of sawtimber; cultural treatment of 30 acres per year; an average annual tree planting schedule of 7 acres and .5 acres of game shrubs per year.

Recreational development is designed to accommodate only non-motorized, extensive activities. These include hunting, hiking, skiing and horseback riding.

Roads to the interior of the property have been gated to exclude vehicular travel. A parking lot has been constructed on the eastern side of the property and one is planned for the west side.

An important element governing the management of this property is the lease with the U.S. Forest Service for forestry and watershed research. This had to receive consideration in development of the master plan.

The Environmental Assessment Screening Worksheet has been approved by the Bureau of Environmental Impact. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required because proposed management activities are minimal and will not significantly affect quality of the human environment.

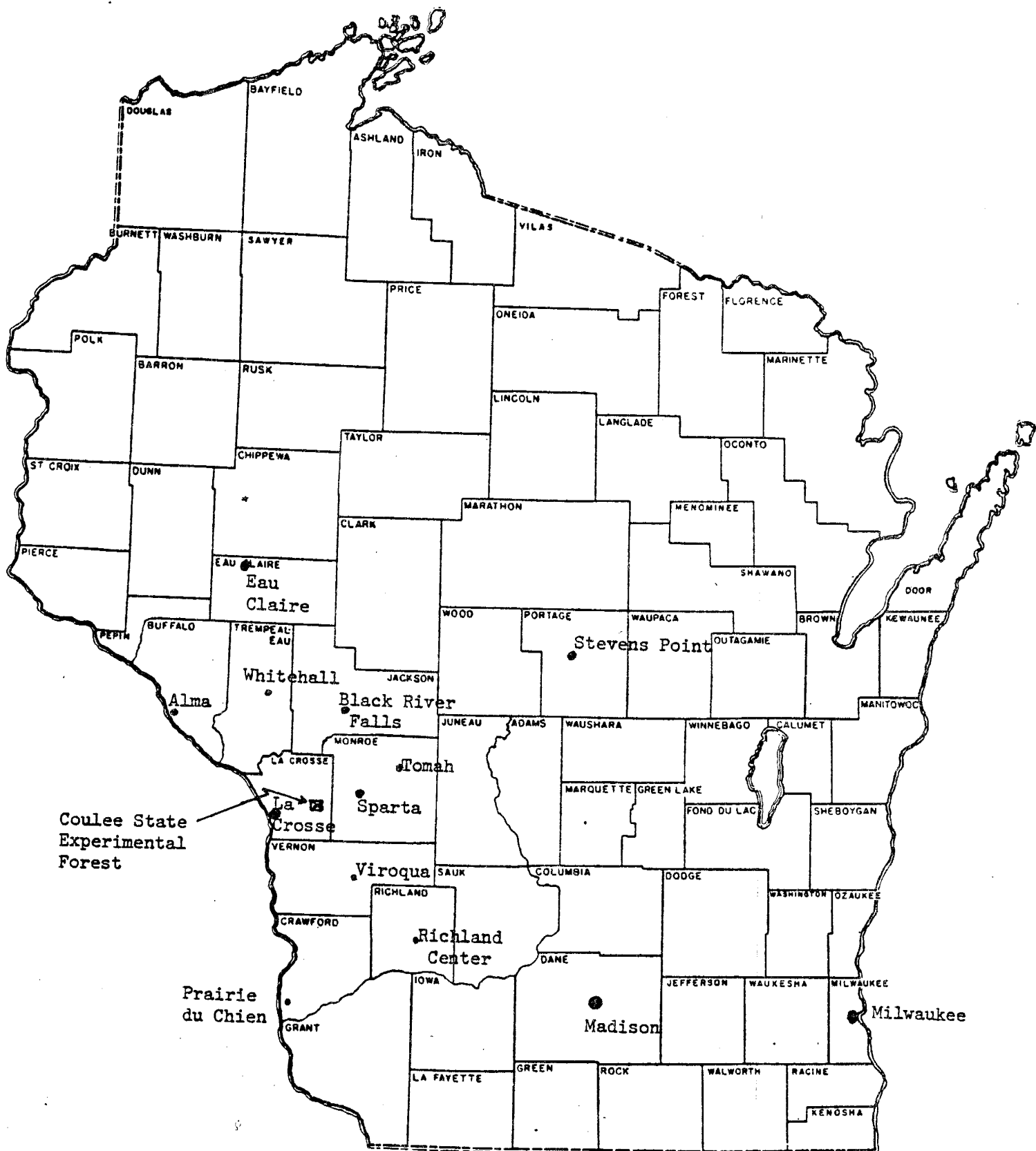
Anthony S. Earl - December 5, 1978

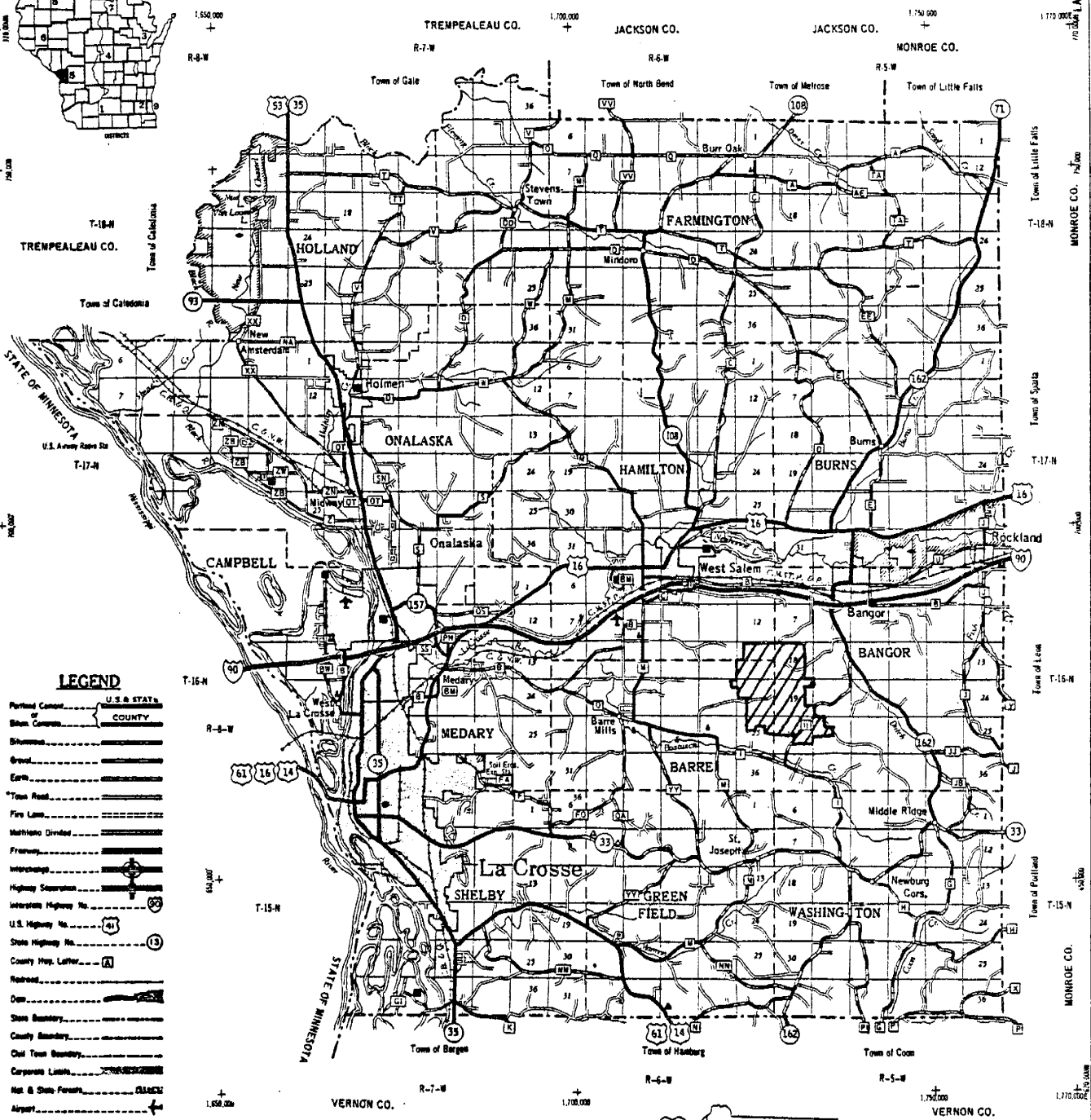
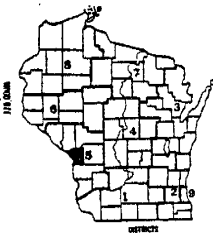
2.

We are confident that to the extent possible this plan accommodates all interests expressed by the various groups, organizations and councils that assisted in the development of the plan.

Approval of the Board is requested.

cc: J. Scullion - 14
M. E. Reinke - 8
G. Vande Hei - 8
A. Kubiske - 8
J. Lissack - Eau Claire





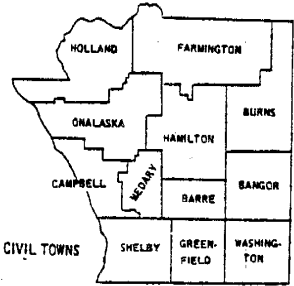
LEGEND

- Portion of Canon of Blom County
- Blom County
- Gravel
- Earth
- Town Road
- Fire Lane
- Metropolitan Division
- Interchange
- Highway Separation
- Interstate Highway No.
- U.S. Highway No.
- State Highway No.
- County Map Letter
- Roadway
- Dem.
- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Civil Town Boundary
- Corporate Limits
- Hot & State Forest
- Airport
- Fish Hatchery
- Game Farm
- County Seat
- University Village
- School
- Public Host or Fish Grd.
- Hospital
- Ranger Station
- Public Camp & Picnic Grd.
- State Park
- County Park
- Wayside

MILES OF HIGHWAY as of Jan. 1, 1975

STATE	149
COUNTY	291
LOCAL ROADS	565
OTHER ROADS	0
TOTAL FOR COUNTY	1005

Land Area 469 Sq. Mi.
Population 7,987
County Seat La Crosse



LA CROSSE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
Madison, Wisconsin
SCALE 0 1 2 MILES
Corrected for
JAN. 1976
Compiled from U.S.G.S. Quadrangles
Based on Aerial Photographs

HFK

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: December 27, 1978
To: James L. Lissack - Eau Claire

File Ref: 2400

From: C. D. Besadny
Subject: Coulee State Forest Plan

The Natural Resources Board meeting as a committee as a whole on Dec. 20, 1978 approved the Coulee State Forest Master Plan with one amendment.

The Board after extensive discussion unanimously approved the plan with the deletion of the paragraph regarding the possible development of a shooting range on the forest. This paragraph is the last paragraph on page 6 under the heading "Recreation Development". It is the Board's opinion that the shooting range proposal is not in keeping with the other recreational developments programs for the forest. They further recognized the public need for shooting facilities as a recreational activity but, as indicated, felt it was in conflict with other proposed uses for this property.

Please amend copies of your plan accordingly and proceed with the implementation. The signing of the ski trail should be a high priority as indicated in the schedule.

The additional permanent position proposed on page 9 was considered in the biennial budget process. As you are aware, no additional positions were approved in the forestry program because of the Governor's "Freeze".

I am somewhat concerned over the number of miles of trails for skiing, hiking and horseback riding, as summarized on the G-2 map. It would appear to me that some of the uses can be consolidated on one trail, such as hiking, and cross-country skiing to minimize the cost of trail construction (the hiking trail), and maintenance. The time dependency for these two uses is compatible. You may wish to reconsider the separate trail concept to reduce your operations cost.

cc: M. E. Reinke - 8

Department of Natural Resources
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

COULEE STATE FOREST
MASTER PLAN

	<u>Page Number</u>
A. BACKGROUND	1
B. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES	2
C. MANAGEMENT POLICIES	2
D. RESOURCE CAPABILITY	2
E. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS	5
F. LONG-RANGE RESOURCE AND RECREATION NEEDS	5
1. Forest Management	5
2. Resource Protection	5
3. Recreation Development	6
G. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	6

APPENDIX

- A. PROPERTY LOCATION MAPS
 - 1. State
 - 2. County
- B. FOREST SERVICE LEASE AGREEMENT
- C. TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
- D. COVER TYPE MAP
- E. LAND USE CLASS MAP
- F. ACQUISITION MAP
- G. DEVELOPMENT MAPS
 - 1. Forestry
 - 2. Trails, Shrubs, Parking
- H. OPERATIONS - MAINTENANCE MAP

Department of Natural Resources
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

COULEE STATE FOREST
MASTER PLAN PROPOSAL

A. BACKGROUND

History of the Coulee Experimental Forest

The Coulee Experimental Forest is a unique entity in Wisconsin. Most state forests are primarily used for the growing of recurring forest crops along with other multiple use benefits and were acquired through grants, acts of Congress and through normal acquisition. The CEF was purchased by the state to provide land for long-term research studies to be conducted by the U.S. Forest Service. The nature of the studies was to investigate forest watershed problems and develop forest and land management practices designed to reduce water problems and improve forest yields.

The unglaciated portions of southwestern Wisconsin, southeastern Minnesota and northeast Iowa, the "Driftless Area", have long had numerous land and water resource management problems. Federal government agencies have accomplished much on the agricultural lands. However, the forest and nonagricultural lands had been largely ignored. Recognizing the need for research information in order to properly treat these lands, the Wisconsin Forestry Advisory Committee in 1956 recommended a research center for the area. The Wisconsin Conservation Commission sought out the U.S. Forest Service Research organization, resulting in a memorandum of understanding between the two agencies. The Commission would buy and administer the land and the Forest Service would conduct the research. The original acreage goal was about 3,000 acres.

Some 60 sites were examined by Lake States Forest Experiment Station personnel seeking an area representative of the 7.5 million acres of Driftless Area. By 1958, a suitable tract of land had been selected in LaCrosse County which had the "mix" of aspects, slope, land use and forested acreage desired. The LaCrosse field unit of the Lake States Experiment Station was established that year. Research operations were conducted under the original lease until 1972 when a new 15-year lease was negotiated. The LaCrosse field unit office was closed by the U.S. Forest Service on December 31, 1975. One experiment is being continued through U.S. Forest Service-Department of Natural Resources cooperation.

Land acquisition began in 1958 under the direction of the Black River State Forest manager, Black River Falls. A formal dedication of the forest was held in June, 1960. Land purchases continued through 1964. Administration of the lands was vested in the Black River State Forest manager until 1970 when this responsibility was transferred to the area forester, LaCrosse. Acreage of the forest now totals 2,971.7.

Current Management Activities

Land use and management is governed by the original purpose of acquisition, namely forest and watershed management research. A secondary objective is management of the property as a state forest. Certain areas have been designated to receive specific treatment designed to maintain the characteristics necessary to meet research objectives. Examples are continued grazing of small pasture areas and maintaining of open land in that condition. Compatibility of management to research needs has been paramount.

Activities include timber sales, tree planting, hay harvesting for open land maintenance, annual wildlife habitat-access road mowings, property administration and maintenance, and some research on hardwood diseases being conducted by the U.S. Forest Service researchers of the North Central Forest Experiment Station.

Use of the property by the general public is for hunting, scenic driving, hiking, cross-country skiing, berry picking and horseback riding.

B. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

1. Goal

To maintain a land area for experimental work in forest and watershed management and for growing recurring forest crops while providing for watershed stabilization, extensive forms of outdoor recreation, wildlife and scenic values.

2. Objectives

1. To provide areas necessary to the conduction of forest and watershed management research by the Department of Natural Resources and by the U.S. Forest Service as set forth in the current lease agreement (see Appendix A). Research use by other state and federal agencies for similar purposes would be allowable, provided there is no conflict with other facets of this master plan.
2. To harvest an average of 25 acres of mature timber annually (.8% of forest area), while providing for stand regeneration and maintaining watershed stabilization. Merchantable timber damaged or destroyed by insects, disease, fire or weather conditions will be salvaged. During harvest or salvage operations and in other silvicultural work, all research findings will be utilized to meet this stabilization objective.
3. To continue and maintain extensive day-use recreational activities compatible with the main goal of the property and accommodating approximately 4,000 man-days of such activities per year. Allowable activities may include hiking, hunting, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, education, nature study, and other compatible day-use activities.
4. To protect scenic values on the forest through the use of scenic zoning.
5. To improve wildlife habitat by considering this factor in carrying out forestry activities, planting wildlife shrubs and mowing access trails.

C. MANAGEMENT POLICIES

It shall be the policy of the Department to maintain the Coulee Experimental Forest to meet the objectives as stated in Section B of this plan. The following comprehensive management policies have been formulated to meet these objectives:

Research Policy -- To maintain the property for forestry and watershed research in the spirit and manner of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - U.S. Forest Service lease agreement.

Forest Management Policy -- To manage the forestland using the Silvicultural Handbook management recommendations for the species involved. The full-range of management practices will be used as needed. Modifications of recommended practices will be used as necessary to meet research, recreational, and scenic zone management objectives.

Recreational Policy -- To provide for extensive day-use activities by providing the land base for permitted activities. Motorized vehicular use will be restricted to public roads. Support facilities for the recreationist will be limited to signing, access, parking and similar minimal needs.

Scenic Zone Policy -- To protect and enhance the scenic values existing on the forest within the biological limitations of the vegetational types present.

D. RESOURCE CAPABILITY

1. Soils and Geology

A. General Description

The forest is located in the western upland physiographic region of Wisconsin, best described as a dissected limestone cuesta. Ridges, gently rounded and of uniform elevation, are dissected by narrow valleys with steeply sloping hillsides. The ridges are capped with Lower Magnesian dolomite underlain by soft, highly erosive Upper Cambrian sandstone. Rock strata are nearly horizontal. A layer of windblown silt covers the area varying in depth to a maximum of about 12 feet. Vertical drop from ridgetop to mainstream valley is normally about 500 feet, with the maximum known elevation on the forest at 1,314 feet. (See Map, Appendix B)

Fayette and Dubuque silt loams predominate on the ridges and upper slopes with Fayette (valley phase) and Gale silt loams, Hixton sandy loam and Gale-Hixton complex covering most of the lower elevations. There are small areas of Port Byron, Lawson and Huntsville, and Chaseburg-Judson silt loams, which are excellent agricultural-type soils.

Soil depths vary within the Dubuque soils from 10 to 42 inches, the Gale silt loams from 20 to 40 inches deep, Gale-Hixton complex 24 to 48 inches, and the remaining types from 42 to 60 inches in depth.

2. Wildlife Management

A. Wildlife Population and Trends

In recent years, deer population has been good and the squirrel, ruffed grouse and raccoon populations fair. Fox populations vary considerably from year to year. Rabbits are scarce.

The white-tailed deer spring population averages from 5 to 10 deer per square mile of deer range and from 10 to 15 in the fall. Average annual harvest is approximately 3.5 deer per square mile of range or 15 to 20 deer for the forest. Poaching is considered to be a constant drain on the herd.

Squirrel populations are somewhat cyclic, depending to some extent on mast production.

Ruffed grouse should maintain a fair population, the trend being toward a rather stable situation.

B. Wildlife Habitat Condition and Trends

Prior to the establishment of the forest, the area was either cropland, pasture or woodland. Most woodland was grazed reducing food and cover for wildlife. Cessation of these agricultural practices improved habitat. The addition of conifer cover and increases in tree and brush reproduction have significantly improved habitat. Beneficial wildlife shrubs such as sumac, gray dogwood, wild apple trees and plum trees are present on the forest. Several age classes of aspen are present.

Small scattered, brush areas are converting to tree cover with a reduction in edge area. This is mitigated somewhat by the edge maintained around plantations.

Habitat conditions for ruffed grouse and squirrels are good. Deer habitat appears to be improving.

C. Wildlife Management

Wildlife management will be integrated into all management activities on the forest, particularly forestry practices. These vegetative manipulations afford the greatest opportunity to increase or sustain wildlife populations. Game species are present in sufficient numbers to warrant management. Emphasis will be given to forest game species.

Layout and design of harvest areas will include consideration for increasing wildlife-valuable "edge" and the maintenance of den trees. Intermediate cuttings, by allowing light to the forest floor, will increase the amount of available wildlife food plants and cover. Cuttings in the aspen types, found scattered throughout the forest, will be designed to provide a scattering of age classes, thereby promoting ruffed grouse and deer populations.

Shrub plantings will be established by wildlife personnel to add to the diversity of food and cover available to wildlife. A limited amount of small openings maintenance is being considered in two areas where heavy concentrations of undesirable species (both to wildlife and forestry interests) is taking place.

Annual mowing of nine miles of game trail-access-firebreak maintenance will be accomplished. This provides openings (between plantation and natural forest), edge and hunter access all at the same time.

3. Forest Cover

A. Original Cover

According to historical accounts, the area in southwest Wisconsin near LaCrosse had very little wooded cover. The early cover type would have been oak-hickory. As early as 1765, there were only scattered groves of trees reported and fires were common by the Indians for driving game. When settlers began arriving in 1855, material for the building of cabins was scarce. Yet it is reported that ridges and watercourses were heavily wooded by 1915, apparently having been allowed to grow up after the coming of the settlers. This corresponds to the common ages of timber found in the area at present.

B. Present Cover

The forest is predominately oak type with a few northern hardwood, aspen and birch stands. Other hardwood species present include basswood, white ash, hard maple, hickory, American and red elm, butternut and cottonwood. A small amount acreage-wise of conifer type has been established, mostly in red pine, white pine, and European larch. Other conifers, mostly in small research plots, include white pine, white and Norway spruce, European larch, ponderosa pine, red cedar, jack pine and Scotch pine.

There is also an upland brush type which is slowly converting to forest, a portion being maintained for game habitat.

Approximately 12 percent of the forest is in a grass type comprised of former crop and pasture land. Though small in acreage, the grassy, south and west-facing slopes called "goat prairies" are an important scenic aspect of the forest landscape.

C. Site Quality and Potential

A complete range of site qualities exist on the forest. The great majority of sites are medium to good. These support good stands of sawtimber and poles, depending to a great degree on past management practices. The potential of these sites is sawtimber material.

The poor sites show little potential for other than pulpwood material. Their aspect is generally south or west, typically with shallow soils. Since site quality is tied to logging chance and operability on the forest, these sites show little potential for production of wood products. From a watershed standpoint and for scenic and esthetic reasons, maintenance of forest cover on these sites is important.

Poor non-forest sites are generally esthetically pleasing and add variety to the area. They are generally not suitable for reforestation.

4. Water Resources

There are no streams or lakes on the forest, however, there are several small springs scattered throughout the forest. They occur at scattered locations and are classed as gravity contact springs. Most fluctuate greatly in base flow (10-200 gallons per minute) with early spring being the period of greatest output. None provide enough water for fish management purposes or water-based recreation on the forest, but they do feed several trout streams. Such streams as the Russian Coulee, Pleasant Valley and Bostwick Creeks are all dependent upon spring sources to maintain cool summer water temperature.

5. Historical and Archaeological Features

There are no known structures or sites present on the forest. There are natural features such as rock outcrops and "goat prairies" which are quite interesting but have little significance beyond that.

6. Ownership

Current acreage within the approved property boundary is 2,971.7 acres. It is all owned in fee.

Current land use is governed by the original property objective and more recent statements of objectives. Hence, certain areas were set aside for watershed research purposes, with the balance to be managed as state forest, providing the uses were compatible.

Two-hundred and fifty-five acres are in land-use agreements with local landowners as follows:

- A. Agricultural use in exchange for ingress-egress 62 acres. This acreage is expected to drop to approximately 20 acres within three years.
- B. Agricultural use for research purposes - 54 acres. Necessitated by current research, this use is expected to terminate prior to 1980.
- C. Agricultural use to maintain open space - 139 acres. Due to planting, this will be reduced to 120 acres.

Agricultural use includes the production of row crops, hay harvesting, and pasture.

The remaining lands are managed as state forest, with one timber sale completed and others planned as per the forest reconnaissance completed in the spring of 1971.

7. Present Use

Much use is made of the property for hunting and scenic driving with some hiking and trail riding of horses in early fall. Cross-country skiing use is increasing.

Estimated annual public uses, in occasions, are as follows:

Hunting	900
Scenic driving	300
Hiking	200
Horseback riding	200
Cross-country skiing	150
Miscellaneous	300

8. Land Use Potential

See master plan map.

Map Symbol

SC	The scenic areas contain a variety of cover types. They are each bisected lengthwise by a public road and will be managed for aesthetic purposes.
RD ₁	The demonstration and/or experimental areas were selected by the U.S.F.S. for the following reasons: variety of aspects of the terrain; physical characteristics resulting from former land uses; variety of cover types.
RD ₃	The forest production areas consist of mainly oak types and contain 80 acres of pine type.
RD ₄	An old limestone quarry.
AD ₁	The equipment storage site contains a building which is used for storage and a house with lifetime residency.
NA ₁	This is a heavily stocked, two story oak sawtimber stand.

E. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

Law enforcement is a problem on the forest as there is no resident DNR employe on the property. Also, it is near LaCrosse with its large population and has road access to a large, relatively isolated land area in the center of the forest. These factors are conducive to uncontrolled vehicular travel, with attendant resource damages, and much use of the area for beer parties and other activities. Litter and unauthorized fires are common.

Much high value butternut sawtimber has and is being lost to an unknown disease. Since all ages are affected, future resource losses are apparent. The forest is one of several sites in Wisconsin where field investigations into the cause of the dieback is being conducted. Losses of red oak to the oak wilt fungus varies from year to year but progresses more slowly. Controls are known but are not economically feasible in a forest situation.

The forest has twelve miles of boundary, all against privately-owned land with nineteen separate owners. Seven and one-half miles is fenced, of which the DNR is bound by agreement to maintain one and one-half miles. Adjacent owners are bound by agreement to maintain two miles and the remainder is presumed to be fifty-fifty maintenance. Three quarters of a mile need fencing at this time. The whole boundary fence situation on this rough topography property presents a management problem.

F. LONG-RANGE RESOURCE AND RECREATION NEEDS

1. Forest Management

A complete on-the-ground forest reconnaissance was completed on the forest in 1971. It is scheduled to be updated as work is accomplished and re-done at ten-year intervals. This reconnaissance details the present forest cover and outlines recommended forest management practices to improve the quantity and quality of the forest. At the same time, the hydrologic qualities of the land will be maintained and improved.

Forest management practices will include timber harvest, both for intermediate cuttings to maintain growth and as regeneration cuttings. Timber stand improvement practices are required in some very young stands to "weed out" poor quality stems, concentrating growth on larger, well-formed trees destined to be the future timber crop, both in conifers and hardwoods. Pruning of conifers to improve stem quality is also needed.

Tree planting in open and understocked areas where necessary would also be accomplished. Establishment of desirable tree cover on productive sites enhances forest production and wildlife habitat.

Since the primary purpose of state forest land is for the practice of silviculture and the growing of recurring timber crops and because it is proper stewardship of land to do so, it is important that these practices be undertaken. The property has been and will be used also as a demonstration area for forestry and watershed management practices so they should be completed as needed.

2. Resource Protection

The steep topography and easily erodable soils on the forest require the protection of vegetative cover. Indiscriminate vehicular use, particularly on old trails and the open ridgeland, requires control. Such use on moist or wet soils, as usually occur during spring and fall seasons, result in "rutted", multiple tracks across the landscape.

Fire protection for the forest is basic to all activities. Wildfire impairs the value of the land for forest products, disrupts the hydrologic benefits involved and reduces the scenic values. There are several areas of conifers, second only to grass in flammability, where considerable value in establishment costs and future product values are involved which warrant increased protection.

It is imperative that this land area be protected and managed in order that it is available for possible future forestry and watershed-related research. State forest management was previously determined to be in accord with said research.

3. Recreation Development

Termination of road access to a portion of the open ridge top will require widening of a portion of an access road and development of a parking lot. This will accomplish protection of this area as detailed under Resources Protection. The road and parking lot will provide safe and adequate access and parking. In addition, a beginning point will be established for public use of the forest in that area. Another parking lot will be needed on the west side of the Forest to serve users in that area.

Present use includes considerable hunting and this will continue to expand as less private land is available to the hunting public. Continued reversion to natural conditions and increased land management resulting in habitat improvement and more game will speed this trend.

The Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan for Region 4 states that hiking needs are met through 1980. Since the greater LaCrosse area has nearly 60,000 people, few public hiking trails occur in the area, and with an expanding interest in backpacking, it is presumed that this activity will increase on the forest. This may necessitate the development of some trails later in the decade. The cross-country ski trail could be used and another corridor is designated on the action map.

No mention is made of cross-country skiing in the Region 4 Recreation Plan. It is a rapidly expanding sport particularly among LaCrosse area residents, who now use the forest regularly for this activity. The terrain, between the ridgeland, slopes, and valleys, provides ample opportunities for trails suitable to all skill levels of skiing. Trail location and marking, at a minimum, will be necessary. A safer and more satisfying experience to the skier will result.

The forest is also used by area residents as a horseback riding area. One-day rides have occurred annually in recent years and several individual requests have been received for this use. The Regional Plan states that regional residents engage in this activity at a rate above the state average. Present use on the property does not necessitate formal trail development. A proposed trail corridor is included however, should future use and demand warrant trail establishment.

G. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Six land use classes: scenic area, natural area, experimental management area, forest production area, mineral extraction area, and equipment storage site are used on the forest. These are shown on the master plan map in the Appendix to this plan.

These land use classes meet the objectives for the forest by providing for experimental research work, forest production and wildlife habitat improvement. Interchange between the experimental and forest production areas is possible as it is not always possible to determine specific experimental area needs in advance. The designation shown should provide these needs in general. Specific requirements could be met from the production area as the need arose. A twenty-acre area is designated as a natural area and managed as per Department guidelines for natural areas.

Extensive recreation uses will be fit in, particularly use of existing trails and ridgeland areas to meet needs as outlined in F-3 of this plan and as current use indicates.

The scenic "goat prairie" and the esthetic aspects of public roads will be protected by special scenic management areas (see Appendix for map of areas).

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The management action chosen for the Coulee Experimental Forest is outlined as follows:

Action Code

Acquisition

One parcel of land within the forest boundary is a first priority for acquisition and two are of second priority. All should be fee acquisitions. These acquisitions would complete the forest boundary.

- A-1 The first priority is six acres in size, is currently used as a vacation camping spot and should be acquired to avoid conflicting use next to and on the forest.

The second priorities are as follows:

- A-2 Section 13 - 80 acres in pasture, partially wooded.
- A-3 Section 18 - 40 acres in pasture (34 acres) and cropland (6 acres), steep slopes, scattered forest cover and eroding.
- A-4 Section 25 - 40 acres in cropland (22 acres) and pastured forestland (18 acres). Cropland is good quality.

All acquisitions are shown on a property map in the Appendix. None are necessary to any development or operations-maintenance actions proposed in this plan. However, they should be acquired as they become available for blocking purposes and future use in forest management as potential research area and for wildlife management.

Action Code

Development

The following development activities are planned. Specific locations for projects will be found on the action maps in the Appendix by using the action code number.

- D-1 Harvest annually on a sustained yield basis approximately 25 acres of sawtimber, which is .8 percent of the forest acreage. Management practices used will be as per DNR Manual Codes and the Silvicultural Handbook. Merchantable timber damaged or destroyed by insects, disease, fire or weather conditions will be salvaged.
- D-2 Culturally treat 30 acres annually for release, pruning and noncommercial thinning, which is .10 percent of the forest acreage. Practices used will be in accordance with DNR approved management practices.
- D-3 Plant an average of 7 acres annually, which is .2 percent of the forest acreage. The main purposes of planting will be forest production and esthetic enhancement of those areas used for extensive recreational pursuits.
- Planting methods will be varied as necessary to accommodate esthetics while ensuring adequate establishment. Wildlife needs will be considered in species selection.
- D-4 Plant or interplant 500 shrubs annually to enhance and improve wildlife habitat. Some selective shrub and tree management, by mechanical means, may be necessary on areas selected to be maintained as wildlife openings. No food patches are planned as it is felt there are sufficient foods presently available in the area.
- D-5 Establish a road-cut off and parking lot to control access to the ridgetop area. Widening of the one-half mile of road between County Trunk 11 and the cutoff site to accommodate two-way traffic will provide safe access. Activities involved include grading, graveling and installing bumper blocks for 20-unit parking lot, followed by seeding of the disturbed area. Grading of the roadway, graveling and signing will be required as well as a gate on the road and a barrier (225 feet long), proposed to be constructed of large boulders and an earthen berm. Garbage containers will be provided and a garbage pickup contract will be sought with the county. Any road maintenance needed (grading) will be sought through the Town of Bangor.

This project will allow access control to the ridge-top greatly alleviating fire control, vandalism, and litter problems and simplifying law enforcement efforts on the forest. Resource degradation from vehicular damage will be substantially reduced, yet walk-in access is provided for the forest user. Road access is still available in other areas where the attendant problems are minimal.

- D-6 A cross-country ski trail is proposed to be developed and signed, approximately five miles in length. It will not be established until after the road cutoff project is completed in order to eliminate conflict between users and vandalism on signing. In the meantime, the area will be made available for this use on an informal basis.
- D-7 Construct a parking area on the west side entrance to the forest. Site preparation, gravelling, bumper blocks and/or posts and signing would be necessary. This would provide a formal parking area for users of that portion of the forest. Approximately 700 feet of new road bed will be needed to establish a loop-type road into and out of the parking area.
- D-8 Construct and sign a hiking trail, should use and demand for same develop. Brushing, trail pad shaping and location signs would be needed.
- D-9 Construct and sign a bridle trail, should use and demand for same warrant it. Brushing, layout of a starting area for the trail, and installation of signs will be needed.

No development for other recreational uses is expected to be needed in the immediate future. Should use and demand indicate changes and/or additions, they will be addressed in the biennial updates to this plan. Any new use proposal would have to conform to the property goals and objectives.

Action Code

Operations - Maintenance

- OM-1 Boundary fence maintenance is required on 3.5 miles annually. Steep topography, location of fences through wooded areas, and the difficulty of reaching some of it result in a greater than average expenditure to accomplish.
- OM-2 Fire control is accomplished by maintenance of a system of emergency fire wardens and agreements with two local fire departments to provide assistance. Annual training is provided for the fire wardens, who are local citizens living adjacent to the forest. Some limited patrolling is done by local DNR personnel. Signing with fire prevention materials has proved fruitless due to vandalism. Installation of the road cutoff, as proposed in this plan, will alleviate the fire hazard by excluding indiscriminate vehicular travel on the ridgetop area.
- OM-3 Cooperation in research projects at this time includes weekly changing of spore traps in a hardwood disease project and monitoring of a reproduction project. Assistance has been and will be provided in remeasurement of reproduction for a continuing silvicultural study. Further cooperation will be extended on research projects according to need and as time is available.
- OM-4 The block of ridgeland in Sections 19 and 30 (see map in Appendix) will be maintained as open space land. Its value for research, the edge for wildlife use, esthetics and many extensive recreational uses is apparent. Such reservation keeps the land in a flexible condition regarding later development possibilities.
- Preservation of open space is easily accomplished by maintenance of tame hay crops on the area. This practice accomplishes several objectives:
- Maintains the open space without the cost of mowing by force account expenditure.
 - Alleviates the fire hazard from a buildup of uncut vegetation.
 - Avoids violation of local noxious weed ordinances.
- Further, sale of the tame hay provides a financial return to the state and contributes tangibly to the local farming economy. Renewal of the tame hay crop, when necessary, is accomplished by land use agreement and sale is by competitive bidding.
- OM-5 Annual treatment of walnut plantations to control competing vegetation and pruning to correct irregular growth habits will be needed. There are seven acres that require such treatment to ensure plantation establishment and growth. Both practices are research-proven and recommended for this high-valued species.

- OM-6 Nine miles of accessway-firebreaks are maintained annually by mowing with tractor and rotary mower. This is a cooperative venture with game management as considerable "edge" is maintained also by this practice, both between plantation areas and between plantation and hardwood or brush areas. These "breaks" will also be available for use as trails (hiking, bridle, and cross-country skiing).
- OM-7 General property operation such as patrol, maintenance of signs, gates, parking lots, trails, service roads, administration of land use agreements and contracts and equipment maintenance will be accomplished as necessary.

In order to complete the management actions recommended in this Master Plan, manpower and funding will be necessary. A joint Natural Resources Technician position is proposed for the Coulee State Experimental Forest and Wildlife Management functions, to be assigned to LaCrosse.

Such a permanent position would be necessary to secure a competent individual with the qualifications necessary to carry out the varied and responsible duties involved. Several forest management functions, including timber harvest, tree planting, and reconnaissance would be included. Property maintenance (trails, boundary fences, parking lots, signs), enforcement patrol, and supervision of LTE employees would also be included in the job description.

Regular patrol is needed and was referred to many times during public comment on the Master Plan. It will be essential to effective establishment of the access control program referred to in the Master Plan. Law enforcement credentials would be required.

The wildlife management portion of the position would involve wildlife management work on Coulee Forest, Van Loon Wildlife Area, and the leased Bangor Public Hunting Ground. Leasing, posting, game bird stocking, law enforcement, habitat development, and game surveys are examples of the work involved. The Van Loon Master Plan is due in 1980 and will detail work to be done there. Timber sale work is expected to increase there and would involve this position in sales establishment, scaling, and sale inspection.

Manpower and funding requirements will also be initiated through regular budgeting procedures for the 1979-81 biennium.



PROPERTY DETAIL ☒ AREA SUMMARY ☐ DISTRICT SUMMARY ☐

PAGE 1 OF 2

DATA ON THIS FORM APPLIES TO DEVELOPMENT BEGINNING:

☐ BIENNIAL PROPOSAL 19 78 TO 19 88
☒ LONG RANGE PROPOSAL 19 78 TO 19 88

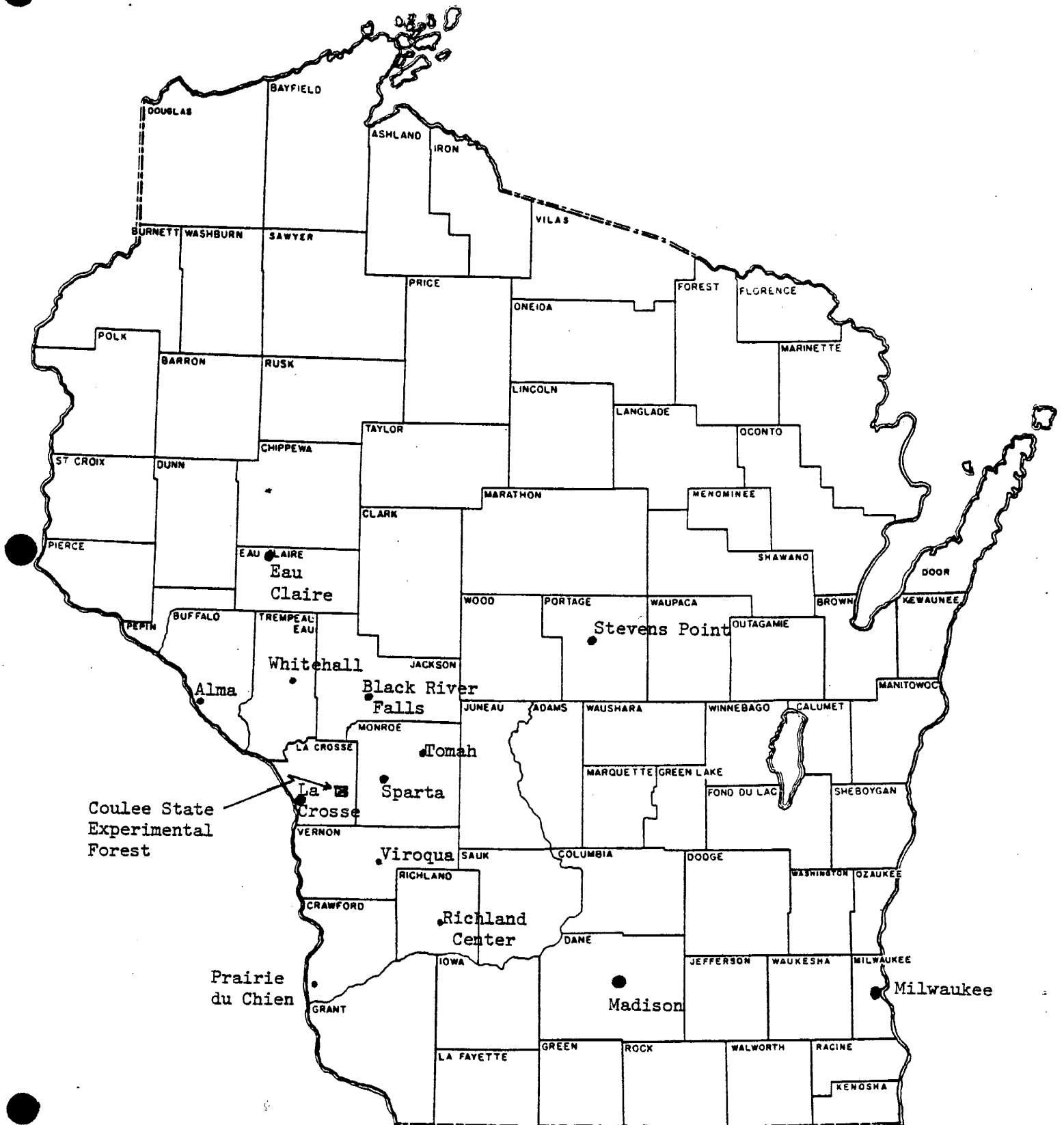
PROPERTY CODE		PROPERTY NAME		PROPERTY PRIORITY		DISTRICT		AREA		COUNTY						
		Coulee State Experimental Forest				West Central		La Crosse		La Crosse						
SUBPROGRAM	DEVELOPMENT CODE	DEVELOPMENT CATEGORIES & SUBCATEGORIES	NAME, LOCATION, OR DESCRIPTION OF SUPPORT FACILITIES	UNITS		NUMBER PROPOSED UNITS	CONTRACT \$	ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COSTS				YEAR SCHEDULED	SOURCE OF FUNDING	DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PRIORITY		
				TYPE OF UNIT				MAN months	LABOR \$	MATERIAL SUPPLIES \$	TOTAL \$				ENGINEERING \$	GRAND TOTAL \$
FoM	D-1	Harvest		Acres		25		1.0	\$560	\$15	\$575		\$575	Annual	Force Acct.	1
FoM	D-2	Cultural		Acres		30		2.2	\$1,250	\$50	\$1,300		\$1,300	"	"	1
FoM	D-3	Tree planting		Acres		7		.5	\$280	\$200	\$480		\$480	"	"	1
FoM	D-4	Shrub planting		Acres		.5		.05	---	---	---		---	"	GM	1
FoM	D-5	Road improvement-road cut-off - park. lot		Miles		.5 1-each	\$30,000	.3	\$170	\$50	\$220		\$30,220	77-78	Forest Road Fund	1
FoM	D-6	Ski trail		Miles		5		2	\$1,020	\$500	\$1,620		\$1,620	77-78	Force Acct.	1
FoM	D-7	Parking lot with entrances		Number		1	\$15,000	.4	\$230	\$60	\$290	\$200	\$15,490	79-80	Road Fund; Force Acct.	2
FoM	D-8	Hiking trail		Miles	(2)	3		2	\$1,120	\$150	\$1,270		\$1,270	(3)	Force Acct.	2
FoM	D-9	Bridle trail		Miles	(2)	12		3	\$1,680	\$300	\$1,980		\$1,980	(3)	Force Acct.	2
		(1) LTE funds.														
		(2) Depending on need and demand - figures shown are proposals only.														
		(3) See (2) above.														
FoM	OM-1	Fence maintenance	See land use map	Miles		2		.25	\$140	\$150	\$290		\$290	Annual	Force Acct.	1
FoM	OM-2	Fire control	Entire property	Acres		2,970		.4	\$224	\$200	\$424		\$424	"	"	"
FoM	OM-3	Research	See land use map	Pro-jects		2		.5	(4) \$640	\$75	\$715		\$715	"	"	"

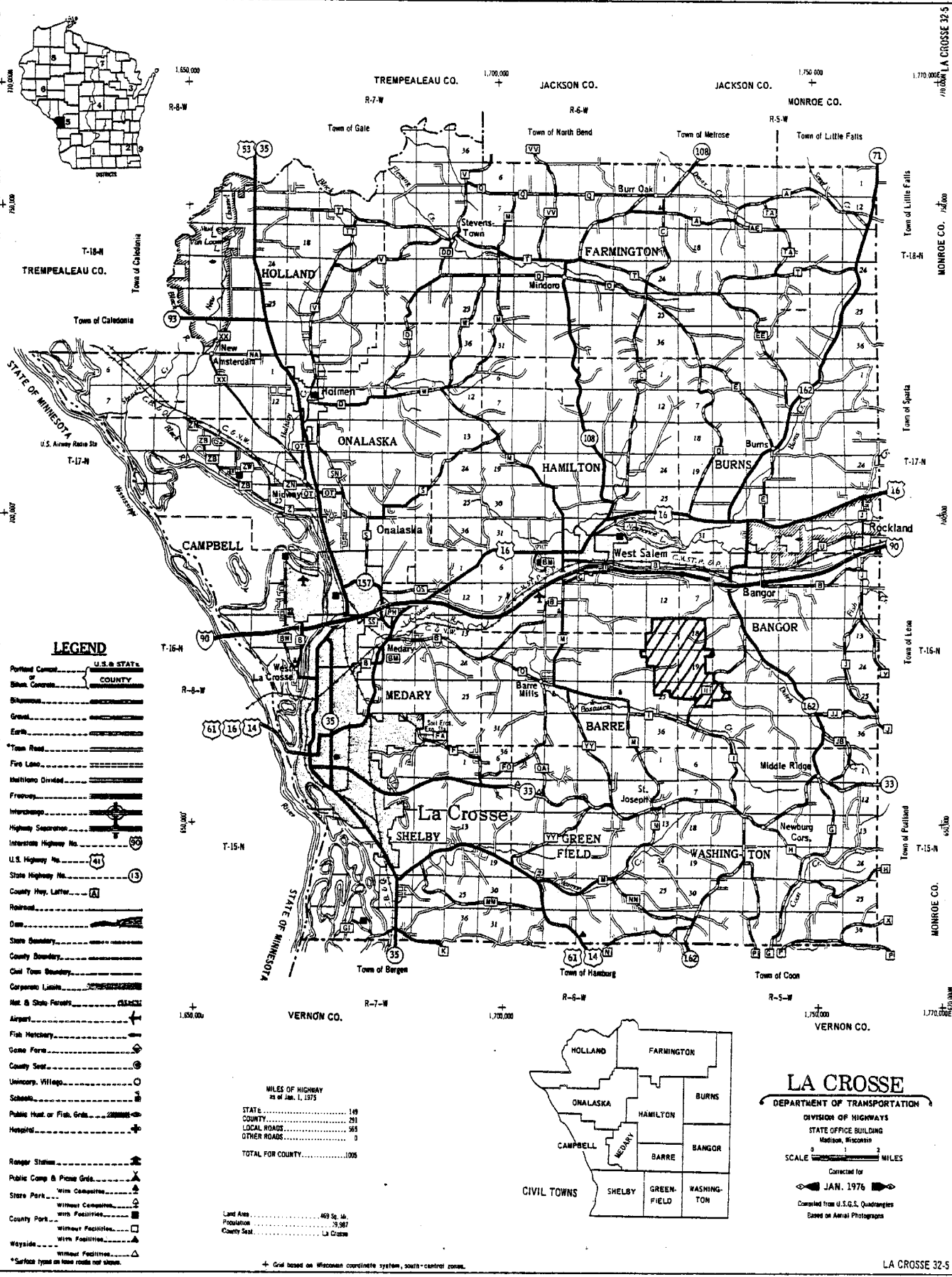
DATA ON THIS FORM APPLIES TO DEVELOPMENT BEGINNING:

☐ BIENNIAL PROPOSAL 19____ TO 19____

☒ LONG RANGE PROPOSAL 1978 TO 1988

[illegible]





UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT LEASE FOR
COULEE EXPERIMENTAL FOREST

(Under Authority of Sec. 1, Act of August 4, 1965;
79 Stat. 431; 7 U. S. C. 2250a; And Act of May 22, 1928
16 U. S. C. 581a-1.)

Lease No. 13-296

Date of Lease April 3, 1972

LESSOR: State of Wisconsin, Acting by and
through the Department of Natural Resources

LESSEE: The United States of America by the
Director of the North Central Forest
Experiment Station, Forest Service,
Department of Agriculture

THIS LEASE, made and entered into this date by and between the STATE OF
WISCONSIN acting by and through the Department of Natural Resources,
whose address is Madison, Wisconsin, and whose interest in the property
hereinafter described is that of owner, hereinafter called the Lessor,
and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA by the Director of the North Central
Forest Experiment Station, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture,
whose office address is St. Paul, Minnesota, hereinafter called the
Government: WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Government to conduct forestry
research and related studies, and

WHEREAS, the lessor has land adapted to the research to be con-
ducted, and desires to lease such land to the Government,

NOW THEREFORE: The parties herto for the considerations herein-
after mentioned, covenant and agree as follows:

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1. The Lessor hereby leases to the Government for forest research and related scientific purposes tracts of land in La Crosse County, Wisconsin, heretofore selected by the Government, containing 2,942.54 acres, more or less, and being lands shown on the attached map and described as follows:

T16N, R5W:

Section 18: $W\frac{1}{2}$ NE; $E\frac{1}{2}$ NW; NW NW (45.26 acres); SW NW (45.36 acres); $E\frac{1}{2}$ SW; NW SW (45.46 acres); SW SW (45.46 acres); $W\frac{1}{2}$ SE.

Section 19: $N\frac{1}{2}$ NE; SW NE; $W\frac{1}{2}$; $W\frac{1}{2}$ SE; SE SE.

Section 29: NW NW except 0.65 acre bounded by a line beginning at the southeast corner of the NW NW, thence north 1 chain, thence west 6.5 chains, thence south 1 chain, thence east 6.5 chains to point of beginning (39.35 acres).

SW NW except 3.25 acres bounded by a line beginning at northeast corner of the SW NW, thence south 5 chains, thence west 6.5 chains, thence north 5 chains, thence east 6.5 chains to point of beginning (36.75 acres).

SE NW except 6.00 acres bounded by a line beginning at the southeast corner of the SE NW, thence north 6 chains, thence west 10 chains, thence south 6 chains, thence east 10 chains to the point of beginning; and except 2.0 acres bounded by a line beginning at the northwest corner of the SE NW, thence south 5 chains, thence east 4 chains, thence north 5 chains, thence west 4 chains to point of beginning (32.00 acres).

Section 30: $NE\frac{1}{2}$; $E\frac{1}{2}$ NW; NW NW (46.34 acres); SW NW (46.06 acres); $N\frac{1}{2}$ SE.

T16N, R6W:

Section 13: $NE\frac{1}{2}$; $E\frac{1}{2}$ NW; $S\frac{1}{2}$.

Section 23: NE NE (40.50 acres).

Section 24: $N\frac{1}{2}$; $E\frac{1}{2}$ SW; $SE\frac{1}{2}$.

Section 25: $N\frac{1}{2}$ NE; SE NE; $E\frac{1}{2}$ NW.

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2. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises with their appurtenances for the term beginning July 1, 1972, through June 30, 1987, subject to termination and renewal rights as may be hereinafter set forth.

3. The Government shall pay the Lessor upon execution of this lease rent of one dollar (\$1.00) per year in consideration for the right to use the said premises during the stated term and renewal thereof. A further consideration is the benefit to be derived by the Lessor from research activities conducted by the Government in cooperation with the Lessor.

4. This lease may be renewed at the option of the Government for a period of 15 years under the terms and conditions specified herein, provided notice be given in writing to the Lessor at least one year before this lease otherwise would expire.

5. The Government may terminate this lease at any time by giving at least 90-days' notice in writing to the Lessor.

6. The leased premises shall be used only for purposes mutually agreed upon.

7. The Government, during the occupancy of the said premises under the terms of this lease, shall have the reasonable right free of charge to ingress to and egress from said property for the uses and purposes herein mentioned.

8. The Lessor will provide such utilization roads for the area herein leased as it does in the utilization of other similar forest lands belonging to said Lessor. The actual construction of these utilization roads may be done by the Lessor or the Government as may be periodically and mutually agreed upon.

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9. The Lessor shall provide forest fire protection for the lands herein leased that will include: (a) maintaining a fire detection system, (b) suppression of fires as required. All costs of any additional fire protection that may be requested by the Government shall be paid by the United States.

10. The Government shall have the right, during the existence of this lease, to erect such structures and associated and related facilities as may be needed; to erect additions or signs upon the premises hereby leased; such improvements shall be and remain the property of the Government and may be removed therefrom by the Government within a reasonable time after termination of this lease; to dispose of improvements in place, in the event that use is discontinued by the Government, provided that if disposition of the improvements is to a party or parties other than the Lessor, the improvements be removed from the premises within one year.

11. Any sales of stumpage or cut forest products shall be conducted by the Lessor under appropriate State of Wisconsin statutes and under the policies of the Department of Natural Resources with the prior knowledge and agreement of the Director of the North Central Forest Experiment Station or his authorized representative.

12. The Government, within the limits of available funds and personnel and consistent with working plans of experiments, will conduct on the land herein leased experimental work in forestry or related studies, adapted to the needs of the region where the said land is located, with the object of supplying practical forest-land-management

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information to the owners of similar land: such studies within the general fields of watershed and forest management may include, but are not limited to the following: hydrologic and soil erosion studies, logging studies, reforestation studies, and silvicultural and cutting-method studies.

13. The Lessor shall join the Government periodically as needed in conferences to review working plans of research projects and to consider additional studies pertinent to the solution of forestry and related land-management problems of the region.

14. Periodically during the term of the lease, the Government shall make available to the Lessor the findings from experiments and research herein provided for, but no data therein contained shall be given publicity in any manner by said Lessor without the consent of the Director of the North Central Forest Experiment Station, it being understood that the right to publish or otherwise impart to the public the results of the experiments conducted hereunder shall be vested in the Government, but the preliminary reports will be provided to the Lessor prior to publication by the Government.

15. The lands herein leased shall be available to the Department of Natural Resources for normal State Forest uses, provided that such uses do not hinder or interfere with the use of the lands for the purposes herein set forth.

16. Nothing in this lease shall be construed as obligating the Forest Service to expend, or as involving the United States in any obligation for the future payment of money, in excess of appropriations authorized by law and administratively allocated for this work.

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17. This lease may be assigned in whole or in part by either party, but only with the consent of the other party, and any sale or other disposition of any of said lands by the Lessor shall be subject to this lease.

18. No Member of, or Delegate to, Congress, or Resident Commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this lease contract, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this lease contract if made with a corporation for its general benefit.


19. In connection with the performance of work under this contract, the Lessee agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, sex, religion, color, or national origin. The aforesaid provision shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Lessee agrees to post in conspicuous places, available for employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the contracting officer setting forth the provisions of the nondiscrimination clause.

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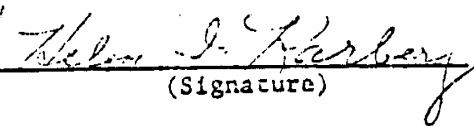
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto subscribed their names as of the date first above written.

LESSOR:

State of Wisconsin, Acting By and Through the
Department of Natural Resources

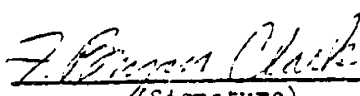
By  Secretary
(Signature) (Official Title)

IN PRESENCE OF:

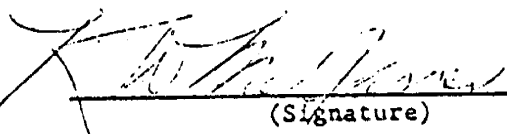
 Box 450, Madison, Wisconsin 53701
(Signature) (Address)

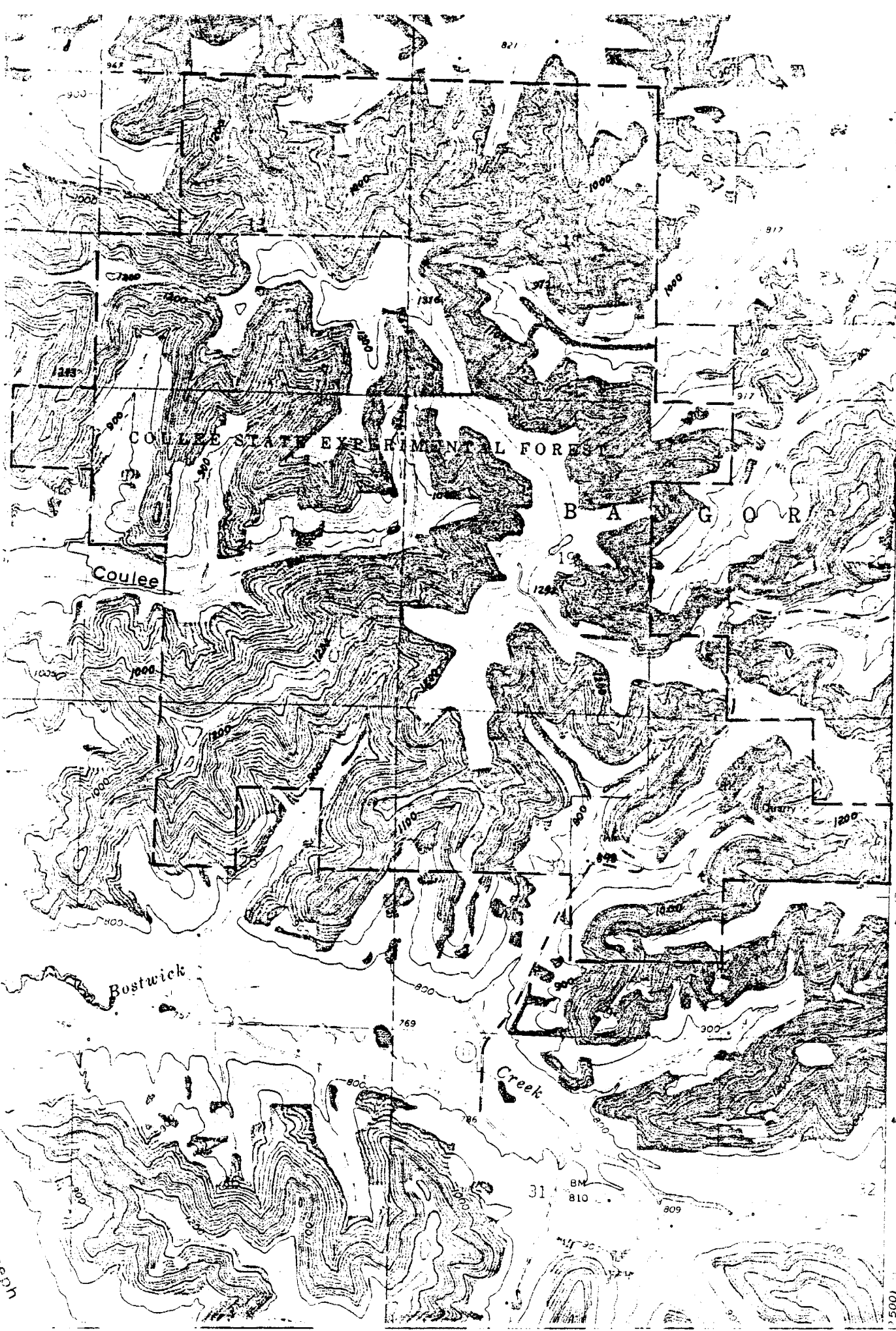
LESSEE:

United States of America

By  Acting Director, North Central
(Signature) Forest Experiment Station, Forest
Service Department of Agriculture
(Official Title)

IN PRESENCE OF:

 3078 Mildred Drive
(Signature) St. Paul, Minnesota 55113
(Address)



4859

680 000
FEET

4858

1.3 MI. TO WIS 163
BAGNOR VIA WIS 163 4 MI

4856

50'

4855

4854

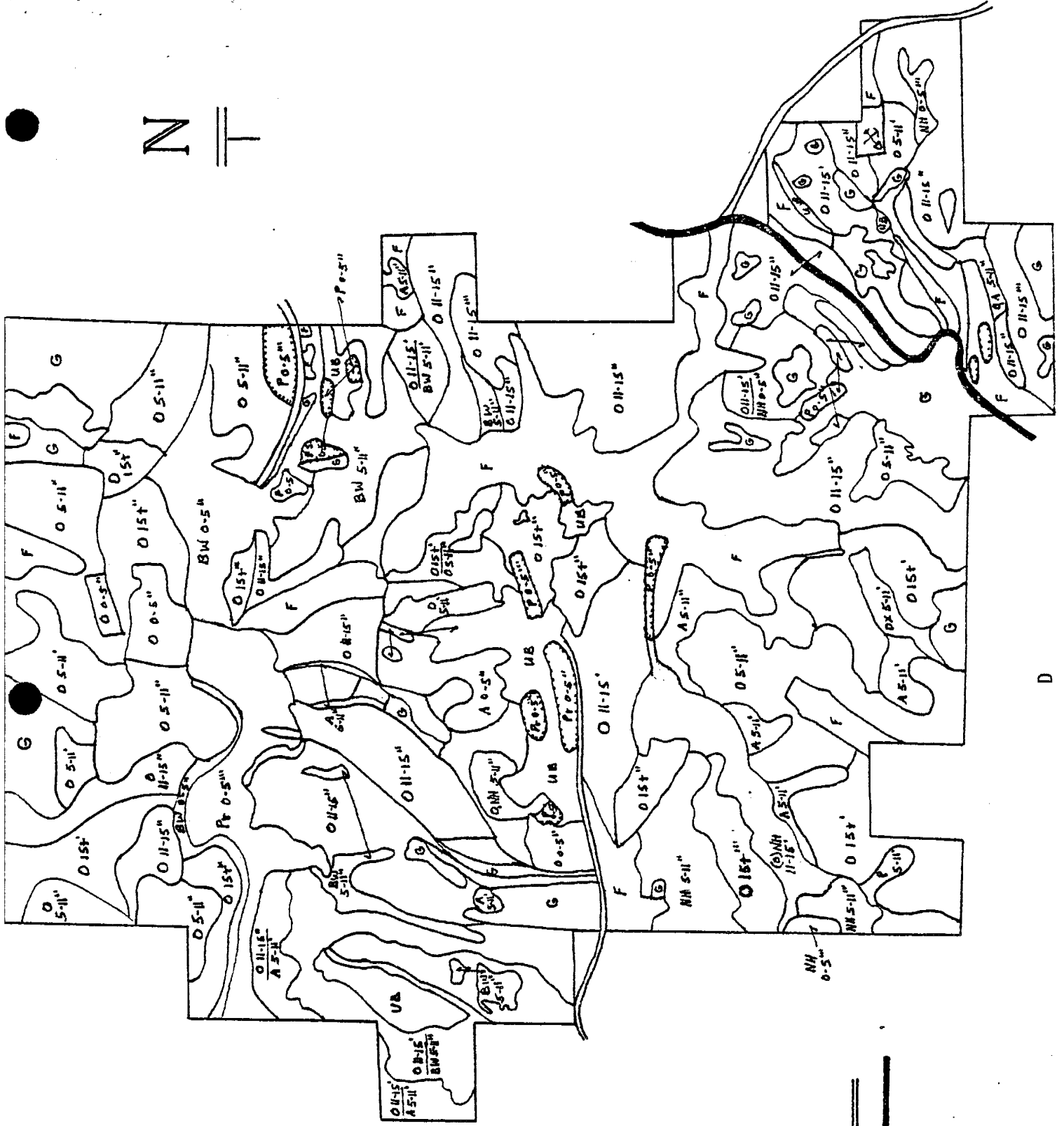
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500'

COVER TYPES

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TOWN ROADS
COUNTY ROADS



D

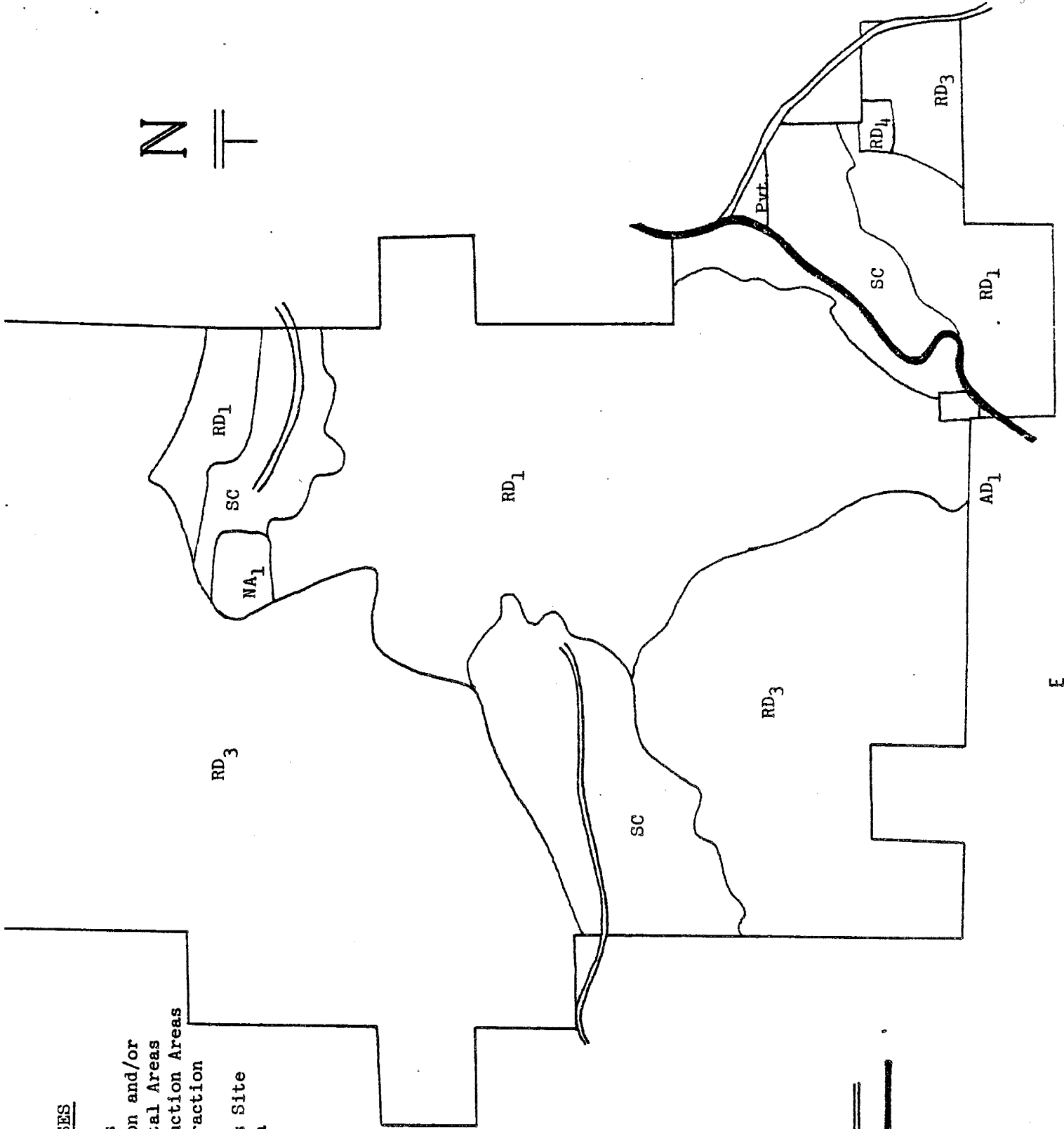
LAND USE CLASSES

SC - Scenic Areas
RD - Demonstration and/or
Experimental Areas
RD3- Forest Production Areas
RD4- Mineral Extraction
Areas
AD1- Headquarters Site
NA1- Natural Area

TOWN ROADS ==
COUNTY ROADS ==

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T

E



LA CROSSE COUNTY

R 6 W

R 5 W

ACQUISITION MAP

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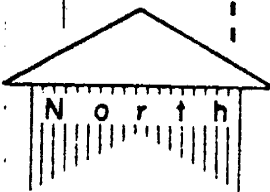
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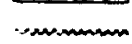
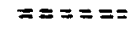


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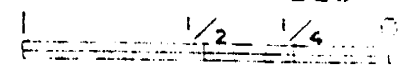


Coulee Experimental Forest

-  W.C.D. Owned May 1, 1968
-  Under Option
-  Project Boundary
-  Town Road
-  Trail
-  Acquisition needs

Total Acreage 26900 A

SCALE IN MILES








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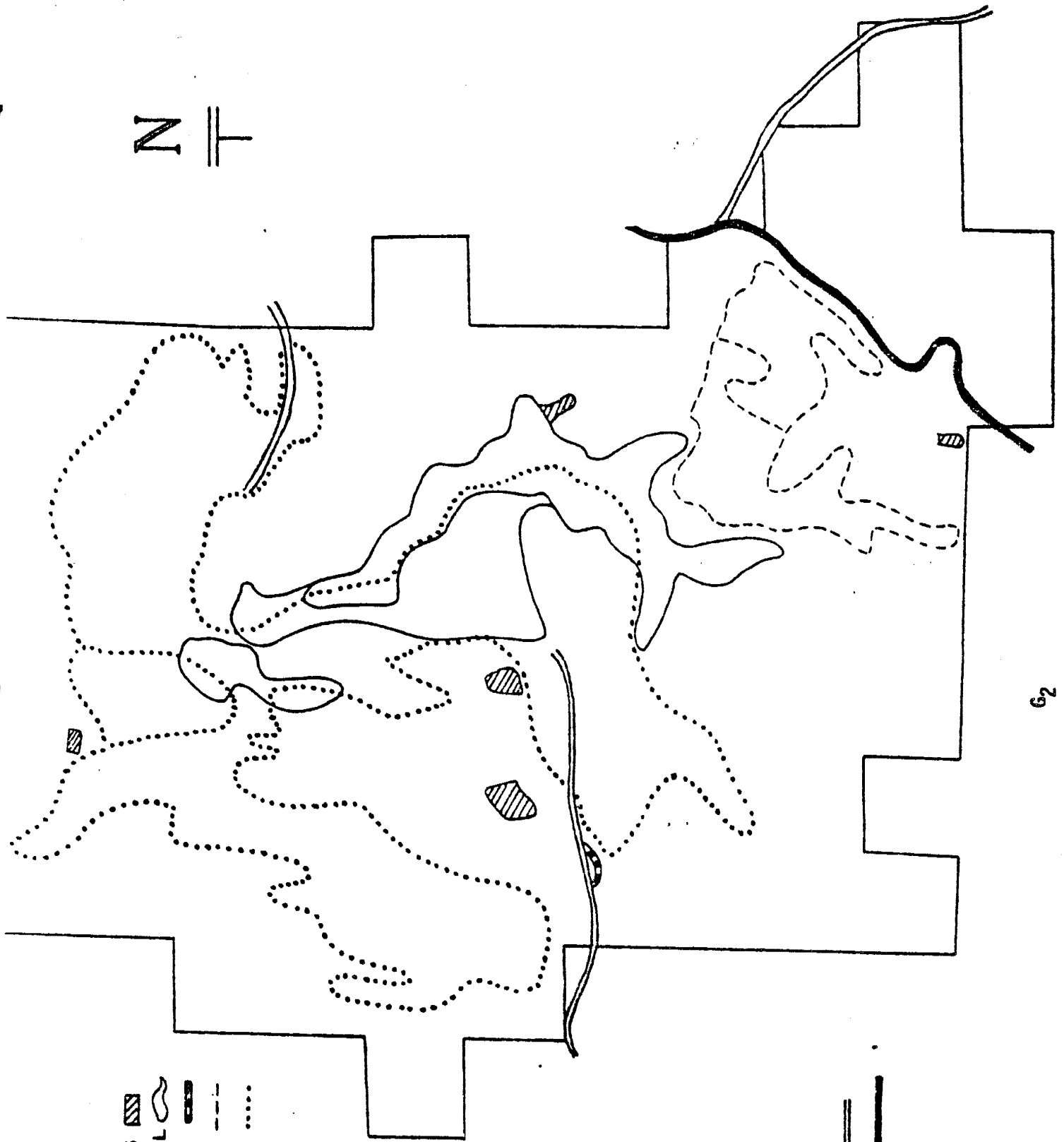
TIMBER HARVEST
CULTURAL
TREE PLANTING

TOWN ROADS
COUNTY ROADS

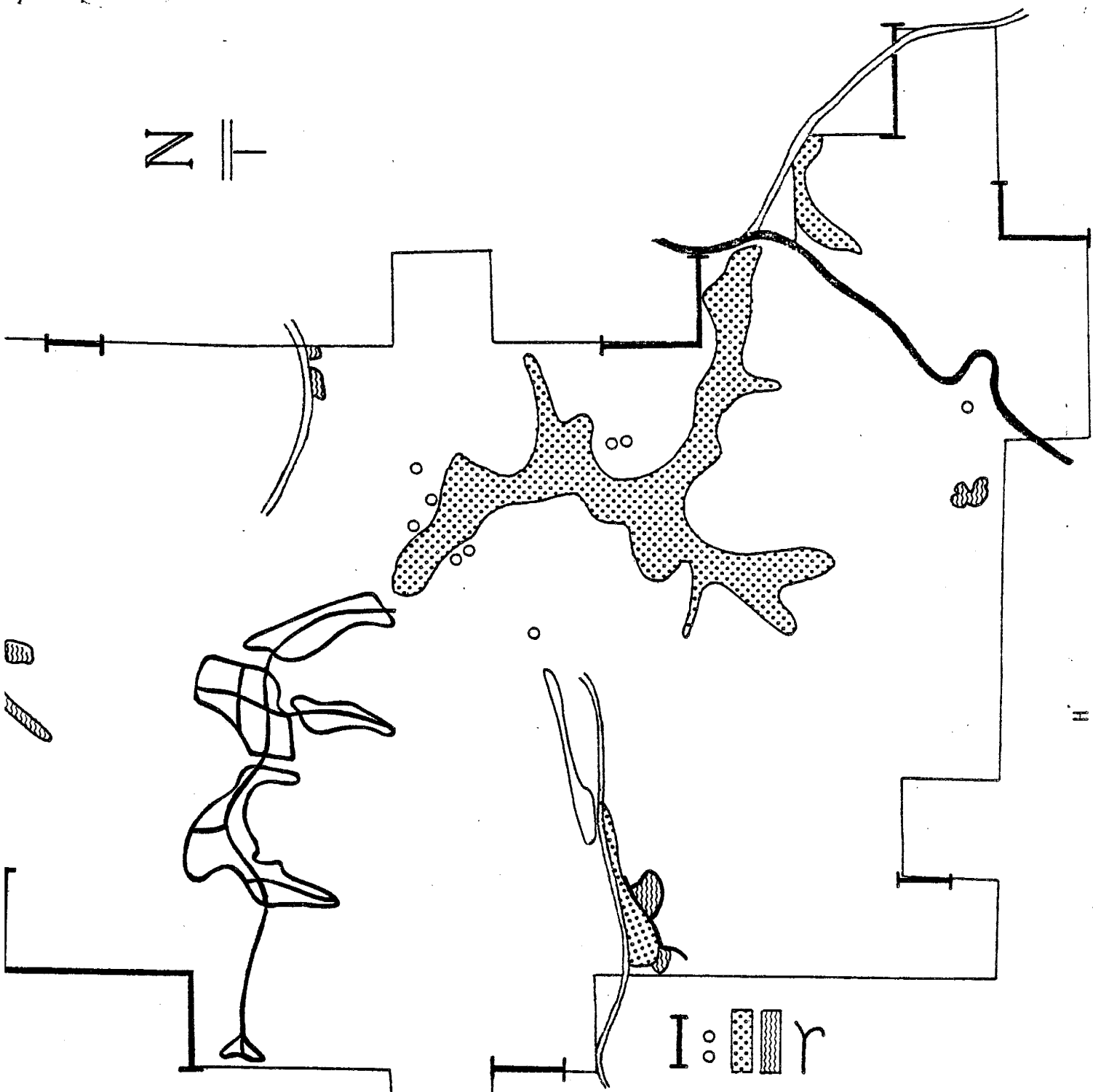
DEVELOPMENT

- D4 SHRUB PLANTING 
- D6 SKI TOURING TRAIL 
- D7 PARKING LOT 
- D8 HIKING TRAIL 
- D9 BRIDLE TRAIL 

- TOWN ROADS 
- COUNTY ROADS 



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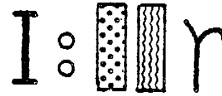


OPERATIONS MAINTENANCE

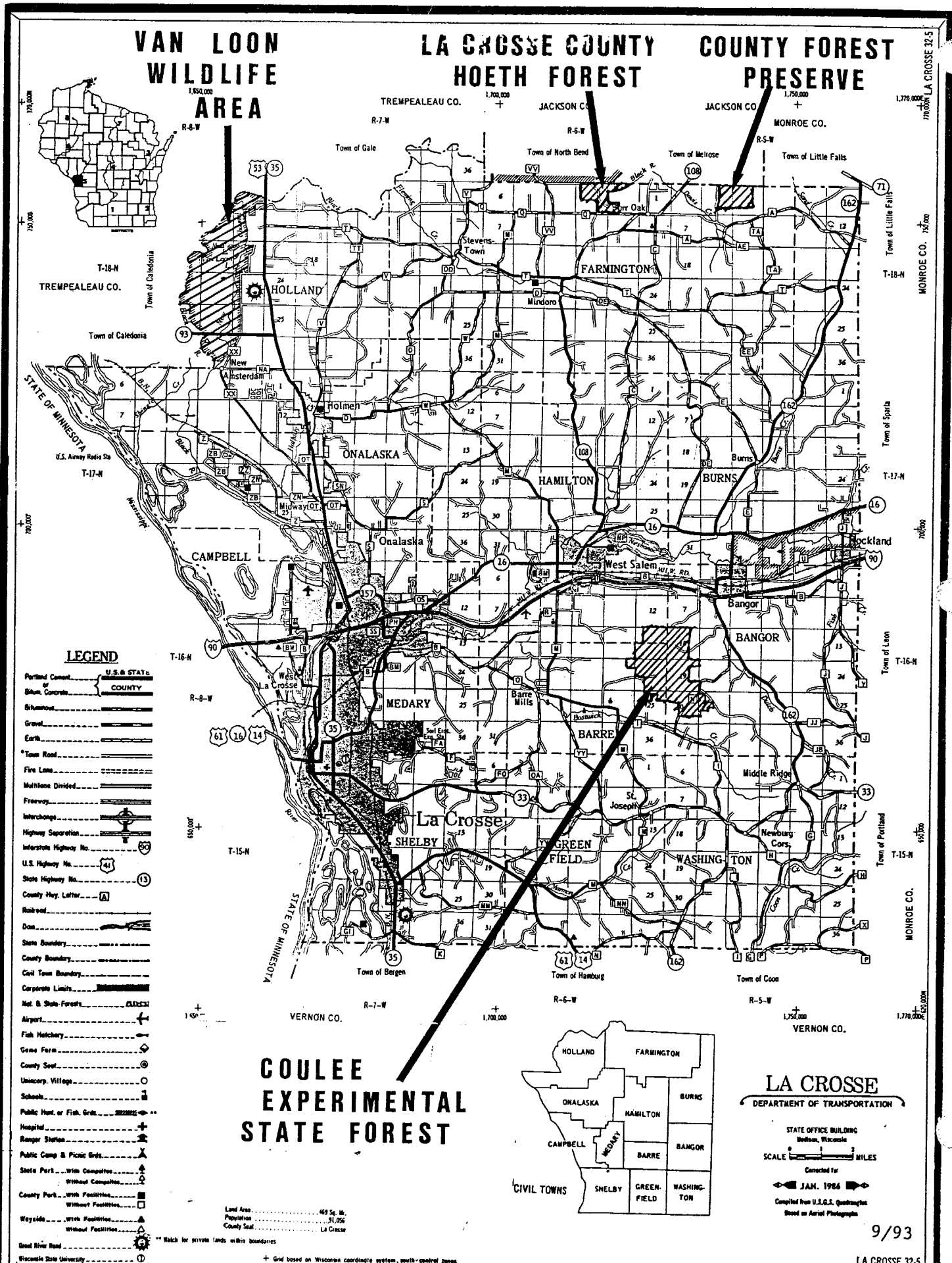
- OM1 FENCE MTCE.
- OM3 RESEARCH COOP
- OM4 OPEN SPACE
- OM5 WALNUT ESTABLISHMENT
- OM6 ACCESS, FIREBREAK,

MOWING

TOWN ROADS ==
COUNTY ROADS —



LA CROSSE CO. PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS-STATE & COUNTY



COULEE EXPERIMENTAL STATE FOREST

The Coulee State Forest consists of approximately 2972 acres of public land. This forestry land is open for hunting, cross-country skiing, hiking, and horseback riding. Statewide hunting regulations apply. No camping or campfires permitted.

Coulee State Forest is located in La Crosse County (Deer Management Unit 59D and Turkey Management Unit 8) and has a parking lot off of CTH II, South of Bangor. Principle game species of this area include deer, ruffed grouse, squirrels, turkeys and rabbits. The habitat consists primarily of upland timber and open fields.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

Lutheran Hospital
1910 South Avenue
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608)785-0530

St. Francis Hospital
700 West Avenue South
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608)785-0940

LOCAL WARDEN:

DNR, Area Headquarters
Russ Wilson
3550 Mormon Coulee Rd.
Room 104, SOB
La Crosse, WI 54601
work: (608)785-9971
home: (608)787-5849

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

DNR, Area Headquarters
Forester
3550 Mormon Coulee Road
Room 104, SOB
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608)785-9000

PROPERTY IS OPEN TO HUNTING
DURING REGULAR SEASONS. NO
CAMPING OR FIRES OF ANY KIND.
NO TARGET/TRAP SHOOTING IS
ALLOWED. NO MOTORIZED VEHICULAR
TRAFFIC EXCEPT ON COUNTY, TOWN-
SHIP AND/OR FOREST ROAD.

